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WOMAN ACCUSES DONOR OF COVERING UP RAPE

By AMELIA POLLARD
Local Editor

A prominent alumnus of Middlebury College has been tied to a sexual assault case in New York supreme court. In a civil lawsuit filed in January, Kevin Mahaney '84, a major benefactor of the college and the namesake of its Center for the Arts, was accused of helping to "cover up" and "emotionally manipulate" a 21-year-old woman after she had been allegedly raped and tortured in a Manhattan penthouse in 2015.

The allegation is the fourth sexual assault lawsuit brought against Howard Rubin, 62, a wealthy Wall Street investment manager. Although Mahaney denies any personal relationship with Rubin, Mahaney was named in the lawsuit after having a long-term "friendship" with the young woman.

THE OLYMPIA COMPANIES
Kevin Mahaney '84.

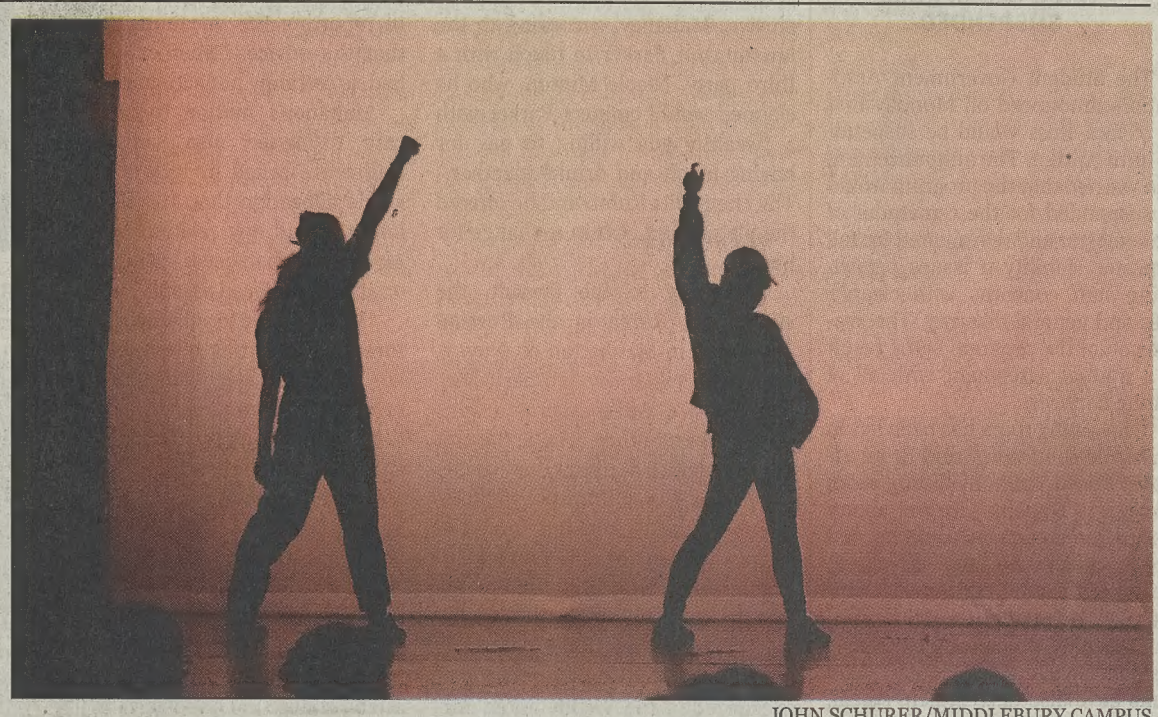
The emergence of Mahaney in the suit — which alleges that he paid for the woman's college tuition and rent in Los Angeles after the alleged rape, urging her not to report it to the police or seek medical treatment — comes a full two years after the initial alleged assault by Rubin.

The woman, who was allowed to proceed in the courts under a pseudonym, Julie Parker, met Mahaney, 55, at the Polo Lounge in Los Angeles in 2015. She was 20 at the time of their meeting, and according to the lawsuit, the two quickly became friends despite their age difference.

Shortly after, Mahaney flew the woman to New York, where their "friendship," as referred to in the lawsuit, evolved into a relationship in which Mahaney "encouraged [Parker] to treat him as a 'mentor' and 'confidant.'" The two never had sexual intercourse, but their relationship remained ambiguous — they sometimes "cuddled and kissed," according to the lawsuit.

After spending time together, Parker told Mahaney that she hoped to attend college, but that her financial situation made the goal

Continued on Page A2



JOHN SCHURER/MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
The Black Student Union hosted its first Apollo Night on Friday, March 9.

Stanger Appearances Show Faculty Rift

By SABINE POUX
News Editor

In the year since students protested a planned lecture by Charles Murray last March, political science professor Allison Stanger has emerged as a prominent public figure in the national debate over issues of speech and protest on college campuses.

In the immediate wake of the protests, Stanger wrote multiple op-eds, including two for The New York Times. Last October, she spoke about the protest on C-SPAN's "Q&A" with Brian Lamb. Days later, she testified before a U.S. Senate committee in a hearing entitled "Exploring Free Speech on College Campuses." She has also spoken publicly at a number of panels and conferences, including those at Yale University, Elmhurst College in Chicago and the American Council of Trustees and Alumni.

Last month, Stanger spoke at Arizona State University (ASU) in a talk entitled "Speech on Campus: When Protests Turn Extreme." The event also featured Lucía Martínez Valdivia, a professor at Reed College whose introductory humanities class was protested last year for featuring works that students deemed "white supremacist" and "anti-black."

President Laurie L. Patton was also scheduled to speak at the event, but withdrew two months before the talk. The Campus requested comment from Patton, but Bill Burger, the college's spokesman, said she was unavailable for comment due to traveling.

Both Stanger and Valdivia pointed to the current political climate as an aggravator for protests like those at Middlebury and Reed and spoke to the importance of harnessing reason and engaging in difficult conversations for the betterment of these institutions.

"From my perspective as a professor of political science, if we can't have someone like Charles Murray on campus, who's an influential voice in the Republican Party, well we can't be a department of political science, we become a department of indoctrination if we can only allow Democrats to speak on campus," Stanger said. "So for me on principle it's extremely important that he be allowed to speak and I be allowed to engage him, along with my students."

She also called upon administrators to stand up for the university's core mission, which she deemed the "pursuit of truth."

Stanger additionally spoke of her frustration that there is a sentiment emerging at Middlebury that freedom of speech and inclusivity are mutually exclusive ideas.

"I myself would like to do away with the terms 'inclusivity' and 'diversity' and instead talk about pluralism, and that freedom of speech is actually a means to greater inclusivity, greater diversity, and if we respect pluralism, the idea that there can be a multiplicity of views, and it's interesting to contend with them," she said, adding that this practice of pluralism is conducive to civil discourse both within and outside of academic institutions.

The Campus requested comment from Stanger with a series of questions, to which she replied from her office at the Santa Fe Institute with the following:

"I have been out and speaking about the larger issues that the Murray incident raises, which have to do with the challenges to American constitutional democracy," she said. "Audiences have been receptive, and I have received wonderful support from Middlebury students."

Stanger was scheduled to moderate a Q&A session after Murray's lecture. Due to the protests, the lecture never took place, and the two instead engaged in a Q&A which was broadcasted to the college via live stream. When the two left the venue, Stanger suffered a concussion and neck injury. She began a two-year sabbatical in fall 2017, and is currently a scholar in residence at the New America Foundation in Washington D.C.

The purpose of the sabbatical program, according to the faculty handbook, is "to enhance the scholarly and teaching capacity of the individual faculty member and to promote the general interest of the college." The handbook says that sabbaticals can be either a half year or a full year, but does does not discuss the possibility of a two-year leave.

Even before she moderated the Murray talk, Stanger was a high-profile scholar. She testified before three different Congressional committees in 2010 and was a guest on "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" in 2011. Today, Stanger continues to deliver talks about her work around the country.

Still, many of Stanger's public appearances within the last year have centered on Middlebury and its place in the greater national debate about free speech on college campuses, and these appearances have not come without contention. During her Congressional testimony last October, Stanger criticized the actions of her colleagues in the Sociology/Anthropology (SOAN) department in the weeks preceding Murray's visit. This comment instigated a back-and-forth in the opinion pages of The Campus among various professors and Paul Carrese '89, who introduced the ASU event.

The first piece, published Nov. 29 and written by the SOAN department, disputed Stanger's accusations toward the department and emphasized that the department did not release any collective statements about the event. Stanger responded with a Dec. 1 letter of her own, in which she specifically faulted Michael Sheridan, chair of the SOAN department, for criticizing the political science department for co-sponsoring the talk.

Another Dec. 1 letter, by Russian professor Kevin Moss, replied to Stanger's letter and called for a correction to the description of the then-upcoming ASU talk.

Referencing Murray's talk, the ASU website claimed that "Professor Stanger was there to verbally challenge the speaker. She never got the chance, and the invited speaker never spoke."

Moss claimed the school's description of the Murray protests distorted the story and played into "the dominant narrative used to defame [Middlebury]." He argued that Stanger did have a chance to challenge Murray and that he was able to speak, referencing the live streamed Q&A. He also said that Stanger did not challenge Murray. Moss asked the university to correct its description.

Laurie Essig, director of the

Continued on Page A3

GAGE SKIDMORE
Stanger spoke at Arizona State University on Feb. 12.

SGA at Odds Over Club Sports

By ELIZABETH SAWYER
News Editor

Peter Dykeman-Bermingham '18.5, the Student Government Association treasurer and finance committee chair, presented a bill to the SGA on Sunday that would establish a fund to cover the cost of food expenses on trips by student organizations for students on financial aid.

The bill's formal introduction to the SGA followed the publication of Dykeman-Bermingham's op-ed in last week's issue of The Campus, in which he and several SGA signatories expressed a desire to repeal a club sports bill that passed on Feb. 18, given their concern that implementing both the financial aid and club sports bills is not financially feasible.

The club sports bill eliminated a rule that prevented the creation of club teams for already existing varsity sports. Now, teams like tennis or soccer can apply for "club" status and, upon approval of the SGA, can operate under a provisional status for two years, during which they will receive $200 in funding each year.

Dykeman-Bermingham estimated that the new bill would require an additional $20,000 in funding after the provisional period, assuming the creation of at least four new club teams that would then move beyond the provisional period at an estimated $5,000 cost per team per year. He estimated that his financial aid bill would cost about the same amount, providing a maximum cost estimate of $23,000.

Dykeman-Bermingham's view is that the SGA can only implement one of the bills without straining the SGA's reserve funds. He said that if the SGA were to successfully run both programs, they would be forced to recommend an increase to the student activities fee, which would constitute a tuition increase that would have to be approved by trustees.

"We recommend the student activities fee each year, which is a component of tuition," Dykeman-Bermingham explained. "It would be a year or two down the road, because the club sports bill's financial impact comes in two years. That is when they are no longer capped at $200. We are going to be hit."

Feb senator Rae Aaron '19.5, who co-sponsored the club sports bill and is the speaker of the SGA Senate, argued that the costs aren't as clear cut, and disagreed with Dykeman-Bermingham's view that the two programs cannot coexist.

"Rather than working constructively on both of these SGA accessibility goals together, Peter is approaching the situation with an either-or proposition, not recognizing the larger scenario or being willing to work on both together," Aaron said.

"The (club sports) bill that we passed so far hasn't cost us anything, possibly could cost us a lot," she said. "Peter's bill possibly could cost us a lot more than $20,000 and that's kind of frightening. But I think it's the SGA's job to make decisions that benefit the student body, and if we need to revise them in the future we can do that."

Dykeman-Bermingham acknowledged that his estimates are "crude," given that he is multiplying the number of students on club rosters that travel by the percentage of students on financial aid. He said he is bound to this system of estimation by the bill's commitment to confidentiality. Dykeman-Bermingham said he has no knowledge of which specific student members of clubs receive financial aid.

Community Council co-chair Tina Brook '18, who said she supports the financial aid bill, also did not view the situation as an either-or, but believes the timing of the club sports bill's passing will influence the debate over the financial aid bill.

"I think the timing of the financial aid bill and the club sports bill is pertinent to understanding why it seems to be an either-or situation," Brook said. "Due to the fact that it has been introduced following a vote in favor of the club sports bill, which jeopardized the financial feasibility of the SGA moving forward, this new bill must be discussed under the shadow of the club sports bill."

Aaron and Dykeman-Bermingham have both identified using the SGA reserve funds as another potential solution to the lack of sufficient funding. But both think that this option, along with the option of increasing the student activities fee, should be approached with caution.

Derek Doucet, dean for student activities, warned against both possibilities.

"I don't see any way that the SGA can substantially expand its support for club sports, while funding the financial assistance bill, without accepting a large reduction in its reserves. That's not something I'd recommend," he said. "An increase in the comprehensive fee to pay for the associated costs is not a step to be taken lightly."

Continued on Page A2

EDITORIAL

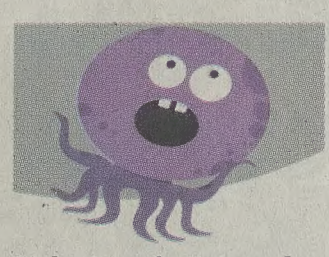
SGA should offer aid
Page A4

LOCAL

Bridge construction leads to grants for businesses
Page A5

Ben of Ben & Jerry's arrested during protest
Page A5

SCIENCES



Biology professor speaks on octopus research
Page A7

SPORTS

Alum promotes mountain biking in Afghanistan
Page B8

NEWS IN BRIEF

By BOCHU DING and CATHERINE POLLACK

TEN O'CLOCK ROSS SUSPENDED

The Student Government Association announced on Monday that 10 o'clock Ross would be suspended until April 2. The announcement also warned that the program would be suspended for the remainder of the semester and reevaluated for fall semester viability if issues persist, citing staff concerns with cleanliness and general disarray. The suspension of the program is the result of a mutual agreement with all of Dining Services.

"The dining room has been left in a horrible condition," said Brent Simons, Ross Commons dining room manager, "Napkins strewn about. Melted ice cream on counters and tables, silverware strewn about, messes on floors, equipment tampered with (mainly the frozen yogurt machine which is an expensive piece of machinery), cooler, food items have also been stolen, cereal, ice cream, allergen free food products etc."

Since its launch in fall 2015, the program has faced multiple sanctions due to violations to Ross Dining's alcohol consumption policy. In addition, there have been reports in the past of students stealing tubs of ice cream and boxes of tea.

"Students can help by cleaning up after themselves as much as possible and by notifying a student monitor when liquids are spilled," Laura Castillo '19, director of institutional affairs said. "This would demonstrate our respect and value for our Middlebury staff who come in early in the morning to set up for breakfast."

According to SGA President Jin Sohn, SGA is currently working with Ross Dining and Dining services to improve communications and discuss future plans for 10 o'clock Ross. Students can contribute to the solution by responding to the survey included in the announcement with their Middlebury email account.

SQUIRREL ELECTROCUTED

Nearby students witnessed a small explosion outside of Voter Hall on Monday. The incident was caused by a squirrel attempting to climb from the telephone pole positioned on the north side of Voter Hall to a power line.

The pole, which carries high voltage wires, had three transformers fixated to its top. During the squirrel's commute, the circuit of one transformer was disrupted, forcing it to ground itself and discharge its electricity to the nearby neutrally-charged squirrel. Nearby students heard a loud bang.

The sudden discharge also caused a safety fuse to open, shortly knocking out power to Voter Hall. However, the Voter emergency generator automatically activated, providing auxiliary power to the building.

According to Luther Tenny, assistant director of Facilities Services, Green Mountain Power was immediately notified. Line power was restored by 1:15 p.m. to Voter Hall.

No other buildings were affected by the incident. However, Luther said, "I'm afraid the squirrel did not survive."

COLLEGE HIRES ASSOCIATE CHAPLAIN & MUSLIM ADVISER

Saifa Hussain will join the Scott Center for Religious Life on March 19 as the new associate chaplain and Muslim adviser. She will fill the position that was formerly held by Beau Scurich and Naila Baloch until their departure last year. Scurich left to begin work in hospital chaplaincy and Naila to begin her graduate studies.

Hussain was a student at DePaul University where she led the Muslim Student Association before becoming an active community organizer in both Chicago and Vermont. In Chicago she was involved in social justice organizing and in Vermont she participated in spiritual community organizing related to sustainability efforts. She has also worked with Ahle Bayt Institute to lead a hajj for diverse Muslims.

In a campus wide email sent on Monday, March 12, Mark R. Orten, director of the Scott Center, wrote that the center is looking forward to welcoming her to campus. According to Orten, a former supervisor in describing Hussain said she "stands out among many with her rare combination of intelligence and heart. She is truly exceptional."

With Hussain's experience in student programming, activism and her articulation of her Muslim identity, the Scott Center hopes to build up its resources for their Muslim Student Association. It also hopes to create larger discussions around the tenets of Islam in the broader college community and beyond.

Orten wrote in his email, "We look to her to infuse a wise religious voice into current discussions around campus, the nation and the world."

Lawsuit in New York Court Implicates CFA Namesake

Continued from Page A1

elusive. Mahaney, according to the lawsuit, put Parker in touch with a third party, Nicole Minton, who he claimed would connect Parker with a "wealthy guy willing to pay for having lunch and drinks together." The client was Rubin and he offered the plaintiff $2,000 in exchange for lunch.

According to the lawsuit, the victim met Rubin in the Russian Tea Room in Manhattan on Nov. 5, 2015, where he provided her caviar and alcohol. After several rounds of tequila and other drinks, the suit stated, Rubin's assistant supposedly arrived at the midtown establishment mid-meal, clutching a non-disclosure agreement. The agreement claimed that any disclosure of the interactions between Rubin and the plaintiff would leave her vulnerable to being sued for up to $1 million.

Allegedly, the victim asked Mr. Rubin and his assistant why she had to sign a non-disclosure agreement. He responded that it was to protect his marriage and children, as well as his business, the suit said, and so Parker signed it. "Hindsight is 20/20," the lawsuit says. "It was an intoxicated, impromptu decision made by plaintiff without legal counsel or even the thought that something horrible was about to transpire."

The complaint said that Parker was then escorted by Rubin to his apartment tower next door.

The lawsuit details a violent attack involving electrocuting devices, clamps and other instruments in what Rubin called his "toy room," a 200- to 300-square-foot space that other victims dubbed the "dungeon." The suit further states that Rubin used a date rape drug on Parker and tied her wrists in order to immobilize her. He then punched and slapped her before sodomizing her with a dildo and later raping her himself. After assaulting her, he supposedly "thanked her for a pleasurable experience" before leaving to meet his wife and children for dinner.

Rubin's lawyer declined to comment on the allegations.

On Monday, a spokesperson for Mahaney dismissed any notion of a cover-up. "As we have said all along, Kevin Mahaney did not introduce the plaintiff to Howard Rubin and does not know him, so Mahaney's alleged participation in this incident is not just implausible, but impossible," the spokesperson said.

After the alleged rape, the plaintiff immediately telephoned a friend and the two went back to Mahaney's condominium, where the plaintiff had been allegedly staying at the time. Parker claims that Mahaney asked the friend to leave the room before she delved into the "details" of what had just occurred. The lawsuit said that Mahaney discouraged her from seeking legal or medical attention, telling her that Rubin could destroy her with his wealth and power, as well as the non-disclosure agreement.

"Ms. Parker's claims are authentic and injuries genuinely real," said a spokesperson for the plaintiff who requested anonymity. "Her privacy and well-being is of the utmost concern. Please consult the Complaint and public filing for further reference on all things related to Ms. Parker's suit."

Mahaney's lawyers filed a motion to dismiss the case on Monday, arguing that the lawsuit's claims were not substantiated. In the claim, Mahaney does not deny that Parker returned to his apartment following the meeting with Rubin. But his lawyers assert that any claim that he dissuaded her from going to the police was false. Further, the motion addresses the lawsuit's assertion that Mahaney laid out the consequences of reporting the encounter, saying that the advice, "whether good or bad, is certainly not actionable."

Mahaney's motion to have the case dismissed also said "these claims are belied by lack of even a single allegation that Mr. Mahaney knew or had any relationship with Mr. Rubin whatsoever, either before or after the alleged assault."

"We continue to vehemently deny these preposterous allegations and are confident that when the Court reviews our motion to dismiss, the truth will prevail," Mahaney's spokesperson said Monday.

Parker's primary cause of action against Mahaney cites "aiding and abetting fraud," which indicates he is "criminally liable for the conduct of Defendant Rubin." After the alleged assault, Mahaney confirms in his motion that he enabled her to attend college in Los Angeles to pursue stage and theatrical makeup design, by covering her tuition and rent payments in full.

But Parker and Mahaney provide very different contexts for his acts of generosity. Parker's lawsuit indicates that the financial support stemmed from a desire by Mahaney to control the young woman, and enabled him to wield power in their relationship. It is unclear whether, after the alleged attack by Rubin, Mahaney and Parker continued to engage in the romantic ambiguity of "kissing" and "cuddling" that they had prior.

As Parker began suffering from panic attacks and depression, the lawsuit said, Mahaney would fly out to Los Angeles and "remind her of the terrible things that could happen if [she] told anyone" about the attack by Rubin, and that "if anything was reported, that Mahaney would no longer be there to 'protect' her, or pay for her apartment or college."

Although Mahaney insists in his motion for dismissal that he in no way knew Rubin, it is unclear whether he can still be legally liable for his supposed knowledge of or involvement in Parker's case after the alleged rape. According to Parker's allegation, however, she appeared at his doorstep with visible "injuries that she had sustained from the rape."

Mahaney won a silver medal for sailing at the 1992 Olympics and is now the CEO of Olympia Companies, a real estate firm based in Portland, Maine.

According to Colleen Fitzpatrick, Middlebury's vice president for advancement, the college does not release giving information from donors. Although Fitzpatrick did not divulge the exact amount of Mahaney's donations to Middlebury, he is a significant donor to the arts program. The college renamed the Center for the Arts after him in 2007 on the occasion of the building's 15th anniversary.

After a Campus inquiry last week about Middlebury's response to the allegations, the college released a statement on its website, saying that "Middlebury is committed to fairness for every person, which includes ensuring that people have the opportunity as a matter of due process to respond to allegations made against them." The statement continued: "Middlebury strives to reduce sexual violence within its community, and responds to all allegations made under its policies. Middlebury will continue to monitor this case closely."

Parker is seeking $17 million in damages, plus legal fees, against both Rubin and Mahaney. The plaintiff is expected to file an opposition to Mahaney's motion to dismiss within the next 20 days.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

Saifa Hussain.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

Built in 1992, the Center for the Arts was renamed for its 15th anniversary.

SGA Debates Club Inaccessibility

Continued from Page A1

The goal of the proposed food financial aid program is to make clubs and student organizations that participate in off-campus travel more accessible.

"A bunch of organizations have a component to some degree off-campus, and for full student involvement you need full student participation," Dykeman-Bermingham explained while presenting the bill on Sunday. "The SGA currently only funds reimbursements for gas mileage and vehicle rental. . . . This would help to bridge that gap for students with lower means."

Dykeman-Bermingham emphasized his desire for a repeal of the club sports bill in his presentation.

"My dream is that we repeal the club sports bill," he said. "That's a financial liability of around $20,000, which is four sports at our average club sport cost of $5,000. That's not an unreasonable expectation. This in its full force is not sustainable alongside an unamended club sports bill without increasing our student activities fee which would increase the financial liability here."

Aaron said she was surprised that no one had brought forth a repeal bill, given that Brook, SGA president Jin Sohn '18 and senator Hannah Pustejovsky '18 signed Dykeman-Bermingham's op-ed.

"It was strange seeing the op-ed for me," Aaron said. "I think they should absolutely put forth their opinions. However, the op-ed was calling for a repeal of this bill. And nobody brought forth a bill to repeal the bill."

In response, Brook said that multiple SGA members were considering potential adjustments and compromises to the club sports issue, and that they believed a simple repeal was not the correct response.

"After discussions with other members of the senate, I recognize that repealing the bill is not the appropriate approach," Brook said. "The op-ed called for a reverse on the decisions on club sports, that does not necessarily have to involve a repeal, but rather amending the bill."

Brook and Dykeman-Bermingham both brought up the potential alternative of designating club sports as "social sports," which they say would be less of a financial risk than the current plan.

"This suggestion is in its early stages of planning," Brook said. "But I see it as a favorable compromise. This would involve reframing the 'Club Sports Bill' as a 'Social Sports Bill.' 'Social Sports would be official student organizations with the capacity to reserve spaces, have an email list, and receive funding for on-campus events, but not (necessarily) off-campus events. These changes align with the original goals of the Club Tennis group when presenting the first bill," she said, referring to the SGA's Dec. 3, 2017, meeting.

Another point of contention surrounding the club sports bill was the amendment that Dykeman-Bermingham added to the bill before it was passed, which removed a $1,000 cap on club sports teams' funding after the two-year provisional period. Aaron explained that she was uncomfortable with the bill's final form due to the increased costs that teams could incur as a result of this amendment.

"I trust Peter a lot and his knowledge, so I voted for it and I feel really uncomfortable with what it ended up being," Aaron said.

Dykeman-Bermingham explained that he added this amendment in order to enable the club sports funding process to provide realistic funds, which he said are consistently over $1,000 for current club sports.

"There is not a single club sport that is under $1,000," he said. "In capping them at funding for $1,000 perpetually, we would inherently make a gap on average of $4,000 that students would have to pay in to run that organization. We would be institutionalizing inaccessibility."

Aaron disagreed with this logic, arguing that students already pay additional fees, and that the keeping the cap is more responsible.

"Peter doesn't acknowledge the fact that club sports participants currently pay dues directly to their teams, allowing them to function on more than the money we allocate them," Aaron said. "There is no reason to assume that we need to fund all club sports in full, or that that is how it currently works. Many clubs also have gift accounts and endowments."

Dissatisfaction on behalf of SGA members in the aftermath of the club sports bill's passing also prompted Senator John Gosselin '20 to propose a bill on Sunday that would change the SGA's bylaws. The bill would make it so the Senate speaker, who typically chairs discussion at SGA meetings, would be temporarily removed from the position when the SGA discusses a bill sponsored by the Speaker. As speaker, Aaron moderated the deliberation of the club sports bill, which she also sponsored.

"People came to me with concerns that the vote on the (club sports) bill was off and could have been better, and I think part of that process should be preventing the speaker from being the speaker when we're discussing a bill they sponsor," Gosselin said.

Brook expressed frustration to The Campus that the vote on the club sports bill occurred despite the absences of several senators in opposition to the bill.

"I was not able to be present, nor was Senator Andrews, who expressed discontent," Brook said. "Furthermore, Senator Koontz was also absent and we were unable to hear her opinions either. The vote was very close, and our absence prevented it from being a more fair proceeding."

Brook also felt that the college's director of club sports Doug Connelly's and Dykeman-Bermingham's vocal opposition to the bill, and the nature of the debate in general, should have delayed a vote. Brook was aware of Connelly's and Dykeman-Bermingham's opposition to the bill, despite her own absence, by consulting the meeting's minutes.

"Given that the vote was so contentious ([8–1–5]), and the discussions regarding this bill had been lively, it was the speaker's responsibility to recognize the need for further deliberation, particularly with all Senators present and commentary from all stakeholders involved," Brook said.

Aaron recognized the frustration that other senators may have felt during the discussion of the club sports bill given her position as speaker, her position on the club tennis team and her involvement in the bill. She said that she supports the idea behind Gosselin's proposal because of the conflicting obligations she feels as speaker and senator.

"It always feels like the speaker has more power than you because they're controlling the conversation and that's always going to be frustrating," Aaron said at the meeting. "I do like aspects of this bill. . . . It's really hard to argue for my constituents when I'm also supposed to be moderating a conversation. So I can't totally do my job as a senator when I'm supposed to be unbiased."

"It definitely does look somehow like I was trying to do sketchy things, but I'm not a schemer," Aaron told The Campus in an interview.

Though Gosselin's original plan proposes that the president assume the role of speaker in these cases, the senators discussed various models used by other schools and legislative bodies, including not letting the speaker vote at all. The senators were in general agreement that the speaker should still be allowed to vote given their position as an elected official.

"I think you should have the free reign to vote and share your opinion," Brook said. "I'm very in favor of this because you shouldn't feel the need to moderate and also defend yourself, and that for anyone can be difficult to balance. So that's not only for the proceedings but also for you as a speaker to have the right to speak and defend yourself and not have your comments misconstrued as you controlling the conversation."

Gosselin made sure to clarify that the bill was not meant to criticize Aaron's performance.

"This isn't critical of the job you've been doing. I hope it's implied that anyone in your position would have similar difficulties," he said.

The bill was tabled for discussion next week.

Faculty Divided Over Stanger Tour

Continued from Page A1

Laurie Essig, director of the college's gender, sexuality and feminist studies program, also reached out to Carrese via email to ask that he revise the statements.

"I would like all of these factual errors corrected as soon as possible," Essig wrote. "I appreciate your attention to this since what you are doing is in fact spreading false information about a series of complicated events."

In a letter to the editor published on Dec. 6 in this paper, Carrese denied that the information on the website was false.

While intra-faculty discord is not usually so apparent to students, statements like the feuding op-eds published post-Murray have made tensions more overt.

Political science professor Matthew Dickinson expressed dissatisfaction about the back-and-forth nature of the debate.

"It is clear that, for anyone seeking the truth, there are more than enough sources to understand what happened during the Murray incident. The facts are not in dispute," he said. "In this regard, it is unfortunate that the debate has veered away from discussing the links between speech, toleration, diversity of ideas, and a liberal arts education, and toward a story about who said what to whom."

On "Q&A," Stanger condemned the actions of her fellow faculty more broadly.

"What disturbed me about what happened at Middlebury was that I think students were actively encouraged by some members of the faculty to do things that were not in their interest.

And that upsets me," she said when Lamb asked why she did not want to see student protesters punished. "So 18- to 21-year-olds are still developing and need to be advised in the right ways. But I think I'll just — I'll just leave it at that to say that I would fault some faculty more than the students for what happened [at] Middlebury."

Moss and other faculty have said they find it problematic that Stanger's remarks have been those which have most prominently defined the national story surrounding the Murray protests.

"The press comes and pays attention to the part where students appear to be overreacting to something, and that's kind of the narrative that they prefer to give," Moss said in an interview with The Campus. "And then the press moves on, and what tends to happen at the colleges is that they have a community discussion that can go on for several days and come to very interesting moments of reconciliation among themselves, and the students always tend to be much more articulate than the press makes them out to be, in part by just not quoting them."

He acknowledged that while The New York Times quoted student perspectives in its March 7 article, "Discord at Middlebury: Students on the Anti-Murray Protests," these perspectives remained eclipsed by the story Stanger promoted.

Sheridan, whom Stanger criticized in her Dec. 1 op-ed, expressed similar concerns.

"I think that the story of what happened last year has cohered into a single dominant narrative, but overall I think there are other stories of what happened too and a lot of those other perspectives have not gotten into that dominant narrative, precisely because they're small, they're local, they're personal, they're not amplified on the national stage," Sheridan said.

Moss also pointed out that the narrative of Stanger being a liberal professor added fuel to the fire.

"The average person who is out there and doesn't know what really happened will think, 'Oh, well the students they don't even support somebody who's liberal and leftist, they're so far off the scale that they're attacking even this person,'" he said.

Other professors think that Stanger's injury was not focus enough within the conversation about the Murray protests.

"In general, I think there is lack of empathy with Professor Stanger, actually," said Ata Anzali, professor of religion. "Even though I might not agree completely with her position, for example I don't think the portrayal of our differences along departmental lines like political science versus SOAN is accurate, I think it is unfair to think about her contributions without first taking a deep and long look at what we, as a community, did that resulted in her injury."

Anzali said that although the nuances of arguments might be lost on the national media stage, he understands why a colleague would want to use such a platform to insert his or her voice into the national debate.

"I personally don't make that choice, but I think people have justification to do that," he said.

Keegan Callanan, a political science professor, also called attention to Stanger's trauma from the protests.

"I think she has downplayed the heroic character of her own actions before, during, and after the event and assault," he said, adding that he did not find her story one-sided. "She is a model for us all in her commitment to protecting freedom of inquiry within a scholarly community and freedom of speech for those with whom we disagree. She has demonstrated moral and intellectual courage of the first order."

In many of her public appearances, Stanger has expressed worry that the media attention to the protests will fail to take into account the complexities of the situation.

"I wouldn't want to downplay the anguish that was expressed through those protests and through the shutdown because it's real, the emotions are real. They have to be validated," Stanger said on C-SPAN. "But to me, the most important part is thinking about, O.K., you feel that way, what do we need to do about it so that it's different? How can we move the needle forward and make this a better place for you?"

"I guess the main message I would want to give to your audience is that there's a variety of views in Middlebury," she said.

Prof. Allison Stanger appeared on C-SPAN's Q&A Program to discuss the Murrary protests and Middlebury.

"It's not this monolithic, extremist place. It's just that a certain small segment of the population's voice was amplified in a variety of ways and you can draw all kinds of erroneous conclusions from that about Middlebury students."

As the Murray story continues to cycle through the media and academia, the college community is left to come to terms with what the incident means for Middlebury going forward.

At the ASU talk, Stanger acknowledged these divisions and called for a mutual understanding between faculty.

"I really think we need to uphold a Treaty of Westphalia between different groups and departments on campus where you just respect the right of another group to put forward what they think is important to engage with, even if you are absolutely convinced that is totally worthless," she said. "Let them do that, because the reciprocal principle that you will be allowed to do the same."

Moss expressed worry that the media attention the college has received post-Murray has hindered reconciliation efforts.

"I think we're starting to heal on campus, but I don't think that things like the ASU event make that easier," he said. "At the same time it's provoked a lot of people to come out to address racism at the college in ways that they hadn't before. But I'm not sure whether events like the one at Arizona necessarily make the divisions that were created at Middlebury any better."

Though he is in agreement with the principles she has spoken to, Anzali noted that Stanger's absence on the Middlebury campus might make it difficult for her to see the impacts of her appearances.

"My ultimate goal, and my main concern, remains our own small community. And that is why I am only interested in a kind of rhetoric that can move our small community forward," he said. "That is why I would take some issue with the tone in some of professor Stanger's public appearances. I think the larger goal for all of us has to be do we heal this community, how do we build this community, and I think when you are way from Middlebury like Professor Stanger is, it is really difficult to calibrate your rhetoric precisely."

"But again, when I look at this in the context of what happened to her, and the lack of any meaningful response from our community to that, I am not sure if I would have reacted differently," Anzali added.

Other faculty are optimistic that professors are rebuilding trust between one another.

"I have great friends all around this campus who have lots of different points of view, and even if we disagree I think we can agree to be a community and to be a faculty that respects each other. So I hope there hasn't been fracturing that has damaged that truth," said Bertram Johnson, chair of the political science department.

Sheridan, who was partly inspired by post-Murray discussions to have students in his "Trust: Social and Cultural Capital" class write reports on the status of trust at the college, also said that while the campus is still on the mend, he no longer sees rifts between the faculty.

"We're not done healing, we're not done getting over that feeling of conflict, but I think we've definitely turned the corner on that," he said. "Do we trust each other? That is harder, that's a longer term thing."

Opinion: In Support of Club Sports

BY JOHN GOSSELIN

I would like to respond to the op-ed published in The Campus this week concerning the club sports bill. This bill allowed students to create new club sports through a process involving the Student Organization Oversight Committee (SOOC). I am currently the Atwater Commons Senator and a member of SOOC.

I welcome this opportunity to take the discussion to the student body more directly and receive feedback on what we passed with the intent of addressing any criticism by proposing revisions to the bill. Already, I have responded to people who told me they felt the vote was rushed and unfair by proposing a bylaws change designed to prevent such votes from happening in the future. I also want to have a discussion on ways to pay for the bill we passed and make the relevant proposals.

First, the SGA Senate and Finance Committee should look at their books and find places to improve allocations. SGA Treasurer Peter Dykeman-Bermingham, a contributor of last week's op-ed, shared that the SGA is on course to run a deficit, so SGA should find programs that have outlived their usefulness and end them.

Second, several colleges assess separate activity fees for club sports, given the high per capita cost of these sports. Most club sport teams already require some kind of out-of-pocket dues in practice, so it only makes sense to create a more official and fair system.

Third, we should help the administration support club sports. Middlebury is a wealthy institution with successful alumni. I am sure we, and the administration, can work together to find a donor to support club sports with an endowment. Going forward, I would be interested in working with people to make progress on this possibility.

Fourth, we should shift our financial model from the current allocations model to an events-based allocations model. Currently, many organizations on campus have money left over at the end of the year, which rolls over. This money is never used by students. Changing our allocations model will allow money to be spent more efficiently so that we use as much of it as possible. An events-based allocation model would have student organizations operate by making more new money requests than they have in the past. This proposal, due to its complexity and relationship to the budgeting process, would need to be implemented in the 2019-2020 school year, not next year.

Something SGA mentions whenever we brainstorm ideas is to bridge the student – athlete divide. Club sports are, by definition, in between intramural opportunities and intense varsity sports. The passed proposal takes concrete steps to bridge this divide and bring our community closer together through the shared experience of athletics. With it, ambitious students will be able to add valuable teams to the College community that will fill a current gap in the social life here. Please also go online to find a longer version of this article. Thank you for reading.

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SGA Should Offer Aid

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Two recent SGA bills proposed changes to the way that existing SGA funding is distributed to student clubs. One bill, put into effect last weekend, altered an existing bill concerning management of club sports funding, removing a $1,000 budget cap that previously limited funding to newly formed club sports teams. This bill would effectively allocate existing student activity funding to new sports teams. Another bill, which has yet to take effect, calls for the existing funding to go towards providing more financial aid for students who can't afford the travel costs that many clubs incur. (See story on page A1 for more details on the contents of the respective bills.)

Travel presents a valuable component of many student organizations' agendas. But clubs often lack the budget to pay in full for student travel to off-campus events that constitute such valuable components of their respective missions. As a board, we believe that students should be able to enjoy the benefits of traveling for club events even if they are unable to self-fund the price of transportation, food, and other travel costs that club members so often have to pay out of their own pockets. We stand with the bill submitted on March 11 that calls for the formation of the Off Campus Food Financial Aid Program, which would provide a direct remedy to the plight faced by the students who aren't able to pay for club travel expenses.

In a perfect world, the two aforementioned bills would be implemented simultaneously: there would be no budget cap on newly-formed club sports teams and students in need of financial aid for club trips would receive all the compensation they need. Unfortunately, there is a finite amount of SGA funding allocated to clubs. $416 of each student's annual tuition is allocated to club funding (giving the SGA an annual budget of a little over $1 million to provide clubs) and that number would have to go up for both of these bills to be viable simultaneously. Given the already bloated (and rising) cost of tuition, the option of increasing overall funding frankly isn't feasible.

As a board, we believe strongly that allocation of funding for student activities holds huge implications for the construction of more equitable spaces at Middlebury. Pursuit of constructing equitable spaces should be at the forefront of the SGA finance committee's mission as it works to determine where this funding is spent. Of the two bills, we see the March 11 financial aid bill as making the greatest strides in constructing more equitable student spaces in which students are able and encouraged to pursue the activities that ignite their interests.

For all of the incredible resources that Middlebury presents us here in Vermont, leaving campus to pursue one's interests still holds tremendous value for students. Traveling with clubs allows students access to a wealth of illuminating events such as conventions visited by J Street U, games against opponents that push athletes' boundaries or debate competitions in nearby cities. These experiences matter and can be just as valuable to a student's educational experience at Middlebury as classes and club events on campus. But for students who already rely on financial aid in order to study and live here in Middlebury, these trips simply aren't accessible.

When a club's budget is unable to cover the cost of travel to locations far away from Middlebury, wealthier students participating in club travel often pay the cost of travel themselves. This makes many clubs elitist institutions whose benefits can only be enjoyed by those who have (or whose parents have) extra money to invest in educational experiences beyond classes and residency at Middlebury. This bill presents the SGA a valuable opportunity to curtail this elitism and allow existing organizations to make all of their activities accessible to students who are interested in participating in club activities. This bill isn't calling for more money — it's simply asking for existing funds within the budget to go towards financial aid for travel as opposed to funding new club sports teams.

Furthermore, students often feel trapped at Middlebury in a space that is both geographically isolated and ideologically isolating for many. Being a full-time Middlebury student is exhausting and incredibly discouraging at times. Getting away from campus, especially for pursuits as constructive and valuable as those offered by clubs, is a valuable opportunity to temporarily escape the struggles of finding one's place here. No one student should be provided that opportunity over another purely because of their wealth or their parents' wealth.

We acknowledge that both bills are fighting for student equity and equal opportunity on campus. The bill proposing the removal of the budget cap for new club sports teams would no doubt provide increased opportunity to students looking to pursue their interests outside of the classroom. However, the financial aid bill more directly addresses a pressing situation that needs to be addressed: There are many, many spheres at Middlebury in which disparities in opportunity provided to students based specifically on class needs to be evaluated. These range from participation in secret frat activities to Atwater parties to sports formals that require fancy clothing. Club activities constitute one of these spheres, and the bill that was presented on March 11 presents a more-than-feasible solution that would have significant benefit for students who are presently prevented from joining in club activities because of their financial standing.

A Club Sports Endowment

By PETER DYKEMAN-BIRMINGHAM

Every year, club sports cost the student body $122,000, in addition to informal member fees and alumni donations. In total, I estimate that the full enterprise costs closer to $170,000. Club sports require more than 10 percent of our student budget and attract about 30 percent of students as participants. Clearly how they are funded is worth our attention.

Club sports add significant value to campus. Teams create webs of social connection, give students competitive and athletic outputs, and provide a wealth of social happenings throughout the year. However, to make club sports truly accessible to all students, we need help.

The idea of a club sports endowment has been floated in every funding conversation as a magical solution to managing the cost of club sports. It would in fact fix all of our funding problems. It would also require a donation of at least $1.4 million.

Endowments work by collecting a large sum of money, investing it, and living off the interest. The college hopes to run its endowment by only releasing five percent annually. If the SGA were to follow that same five percent principle to fund the entirety of club sports, we would need to amass a total of $3.4 million. The $1.4 million estimate is if the SGA commits to contribute about $100,000 each year, or about what we are spending already.

A club sports endowment would give sustainability to one of the greatest student institutions on this campus. It would be a very worthy cause, but we'd need a very generous donor.

If you are that donor, I can see to it we name a crew shell after you.

Carbon Pricing: A Big Move For a Small State

BY CATHERINE LA ROCHE

The fight against climate change is a test of human nature; it's near-impossible to get people to do what is right for society when what is right is inconvenient. In order to make progress, we need to use financial incentives like a tax on carbon emissions, which would motivate people to use less gasoline, rely on renewables for home heating, and generally become more environmentally conscious. As a leader in progressive and socially conscious legislation, Vermont must be an early state to adopt this policy, for which there is already growing interest among residents; so far, over 500 Vermont businesses and institutions have demonstrated support for a carbon tax. Academic institutions are a major factor in this process, and Middlebury's endorsement, given its image as a pioneer in carbon neutrality, would carry a lot of weight.

Vermont is largely reliant on other states for energy, with virtually all of its non-renewable energy coming from outside Vermont. This represents a hole through which Vermonters' money is exiting local circulation; the environmental coalition Energy Independent Vermont (EIV) estimates that eight out of every 10 dollars spent on fossil fuels immediately exits Vermont. Instead of seizing money from the hands of Vermonters, a carbon tax would actually return it directly to Vermont's citizens.

In addition to combatting the climate-related threat to our existence on this planet, a carbon tax would actually stimulate Vermont's economy by catalyzing growth in the renewable energy sector and keeping money circulating within the Vermont economy. Vermont may not have any natural gas reserves, but it does have the capacity to have a robust renewable energy industry. Already, Vermont's renewable energy sector employs over 19,000 Vermonters and produces near nine million megawatts of power, according a report commissioned by the Vermont Clean Energy Development Fund in 2017.

Carbon pricing has bipartisan support, with everyone from Barack Obama and Justin Trudeau to Lindsey Graham calling for a tax on carbon emissions in various issued statements and press conferences. In Vermont, opposition to the tax has mainly been on the part of people like Governor Phil Scott, who is generally opposed to any new taxation, and Vermont fuel dealers. One such lobbyist, Matt Cota of the Vermont Fuel Dealers Association, expressed in an op-ed in the Burlington Free Press that a carbon tax would not be effective in Vermont because approximately half of Vermonters live near the borders of New Hampshire, Massachusetts or New York, where they could conceivably fill up on gas and dodge the Vermont carbon tax.

This sentiment rests on several incorrect assumptions. First, New York state already has consistently higher gas prices than Vermont. In addition, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and New York, along with five other states, are currently considering their own carbon tax legislation. More, the carbon tax would not be so extreme as to override convenience; if the plan heralded and introduced in January 2018 by EIV is enacted, Vermont's carbon tax would likely manifest in a 40 dollar fee for each ton of carbon emitted. This would trickle down to the consumer in the form of a three cent per gallon of gas increase starting off, eventually rising to 36 cents per gallon over eight years (alongside proportional increases to diesel, home heating oil and propane prices). In addition, the stimulus to the local economy gained from keeping energy revenue in circulation with Vermont companies would prevent many people from going out of state to fill up on gas.

At this point in the legislative process, where there is widespread support for the general idea of a carbon tax but no specifics currently set in stone, there are many things that this carbon tax could become. Many legislators and activists aim to make the Vermont carbon tax redistributive. Daniel Barlow, of the Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility, describes his ideal policy as one "that returns the [carbon] tax money in either tax breaks or dividends to low and moderate income families."

This kind of redistributive policy counters some issues common to punitive taxes — mainly, that they disproportionately affect rural and low-income populations who have less access to renewables and environmentally-friendly amenities like hybrid or electric vehicles and solar panels. A redistributive carbon tax would permit rural and low-income Vermonters to cut down on their carbon emissions in the same way that wealthy Vermonters do.

Not everyone needs to be actively, constantly engaged in protecting our planet. Changes in policy can change the way we act and emit carbon in a significant way without major consequences or activity on our part. This legislation is necessary, and it is also tremendously accessible. All it needs is widespread and passionate support, and soon.

EXECUTIVE PAY AND WHY IT MATTERS

By NOAH GRAHAM

In case you don't know me, I'm that guy at our financial meetings — the one who's always asking questions (but not necessarily getting answers) about Middlebury's executive pay. The data I'm talking about, the total compensation of our top administrators as listed in Middlebury's IRS-mandated Form 990 filings for 2014–15 and 2015–16 (the most recent available), are shown in the accompanying chart.

I suspect that many students, faculty and staff will find the sheer magnitude of these numbers infuriating, especially at a time when tuition increases are significantly exceeding and average faculty and staff salary increases are lagging behind the rate of inflation. But I would argue that it is even more important to scrutinize executive compensation for the same reason we need to pay top executives well in the first place: because incentives matter.

According to the administration, a major contribution to these total compensation numbers has been a program of "stay bonuses." Nominally associated with the presidential transition in 2015, these payments have been justified by the administration as a necessary tool to prevent senior executives from leaving for other institutions. According to our available Form 990 filings, top administrators accrued these bonuses regularly over several years (at least six in some cases). However, because these bonuses are paid out as lump sums, we account for them as one-time expenses, meaning that they are taken directly from the endowment rather than falling within the constraints of the operating budget. In other words, they are funded by dipping into our long-term savings — an approach that is often suggested, and rightly rejected, to address budget gaps in other areas.

While the administration has pointed out that our compensation committee sets executive pay to be competitive with peer institutions, it has also acknowledged that this comparison does not take these bonuses into account. And although this bonus program originated before she arrived, President Patton reported to Faculty Council in February 2017 that she has continued it and added additional bonuses for current administrators. At that meeting she also reported that former President Liebowitz is due a bonus that has not yet been disclosed in the available filings.

Since the right incentives can easily pay for themselves through the institution's overall success, evaluating this approach requires us to reflect on Middlebury's financial performance over the corresponding time period. Despite a strong economy, we swung to eight-figure deficits that peaked in 2015–16 at more than $22 million, roughly triple our worst shortfall during the 2007 financial crisis. Our credit outlook was downgraded, our auditors found "material weaknesses" in our financial statements, and we recognized that our accounting had underestimated depreciation costs for our facilities compared to generally accepted accounting principles. We added a new $46 million field house featuring a $7.8 million squash facility, a new office in Washington, D.C., and new off-site summer programs at the same time as we did little to address the college's academic space needs, so that we are now scrambling to build a temporary building to accommodate growth in science enrollments and create swing space for overdue renovations. A New York Times report on family income of domestic college students listed us as the #9 college in the country for the highest ratio of the top one percent compared to the bottom 60 percent.

These outcomes have followed alongside growth in spending. We entered into an agreement to lease a spacious new townhouse dormitory, trading upfront building costs for ongoing rent payments. We committed to pay $14 million over 20 years to the town for a new municipal building and recreation facility, enabling us to establish a park entrance to campus on the site of the former town hall. We added new layers to the administration and created many new administrative positions. We brought in gifts and grants through new initiatives, centers and facilities, but now face the costs of continuing programs past the "fiscal cliffs" when their initial funding expires, along with the ongoing expenses associated with administration and maintenance. The Monterey merger and other ventures that were justified on the grounds that they would generate positive net income, or at least break even, have instead required millions of dollars in subsidies to cover their deficits, indirect costs, opportunity costs and assumed debt.

While faculty do not have access to the detailed financial numbers behind these trends, one data point from our Form 990 filing is that we spent $69.7 million on management and fundraising in 2015–16, compared to the $89.1 million we spent on instruction. It is taking nothing away from the dedicated individuals working hard at the jobs they were hired to do to question whether this allocation of resources reflects the core values and goals of a nonprofit educational institution.

One can argue that the value of these efforts justifies their costs, and that hindsight is 20/20; we should be willing to take risks, not all of which will succeed. But the structure of our executive compensation casts significant doubt on those arguments: Highly compensated administrators with one foot out the door might naturally be expected to focus more on short-term, externally visible benefits and correspondingly less on long-term costs and planning.

In this light, it is also natural to ask how these incentives interact with our decision-making, either explicitly or implicitly. To what extent did the opportunity for administrators to increase the scope of their responsibilities, and therefore their compensation, enter into their decisions to merge with the Monterey Institute, to embark on our now-terminated Middlebury Interactive Languages joint venture, or to expand administrative programs and staff? As we used to say when I worked in the software industry, maybe it's not a bug, it's a feature.

It is particularly dangerous, as became clear after the dot-com bubble, to judge executives by the revenue they bring in without paying corresponding attention to the associated costs. But that is essentially what happens if the administration is evaluated by its ability to hit fundraising targets. Doing so creates a powerful incentive to solicit donor support in the areas that will yield the largest gifts, rather than focusing on the most lasting and cost-effective contributions to our highest educational priorities.

None of this is to suggest that anyone actively plotted to undermine the institution's long-term well-being. As biology teaches us, systems will evolve in response to selection pressure alone, without the need for an overarching design; if one set of practices leads to growth and rewards, it will become dominant. Unlike the natural world, however, in our ecosystem these incentives are within our control because they are created within the institution itself.

Success in higher education is, fundamentally, a long-term proposition. While it's easier to quantify quarterly fundraising revenue, it takes time to separate true progress from window dressing. As a result, our compensation practices should establish incentives that reflect long-term educational outcomes.They should be applied proportionally across the institution rather than to a select few, and should reward effective deployment of resources over mere expansion. Creating such a system is easier said than done, but facing up to and learning from our past experience is a good place to start.

Noah Graham is a professor of physics.

position	2014-15 (FY15)	2015-16 (FY16)	
VP of Student Affairs/Dean of the College	$236,249.00	$224,753.00	*
VP for Academic Affairs	$292,324.00		
Executive Director of Enrollment Management		$300,711.00	
Director of Middlebury-Hebrew at the Center	$310,204.00		
Senior VP and Chief Philanthropic Advisor	$321,542.00	$329,671.00	
Director, Center for Nonprofileration Studies	$323,086.00	$340,958.00	
VP for Communications	$337,435.00		
Secretary/Special Assistant to the President	$212,201.00	$499,459.00	
Exec. VP for Planning/Provost	$309,379.00	$449,671.00	
VP for College Advancement	$384,232.00	$455,072.00	
Montery President/Special Advisor, Initiatives	$608,799.00	$482,773.00	**
VP for Language Schools/Risk Compliance	$883,364.00	$446,758.00	
VP for Finance and Treasurer	$896,576.00	$458,932.00	
President	$585,199.00	$791,994.00	*

*=combined data for two different individuals holding this position during this time period
**=stepped down as Monterey president during this time period

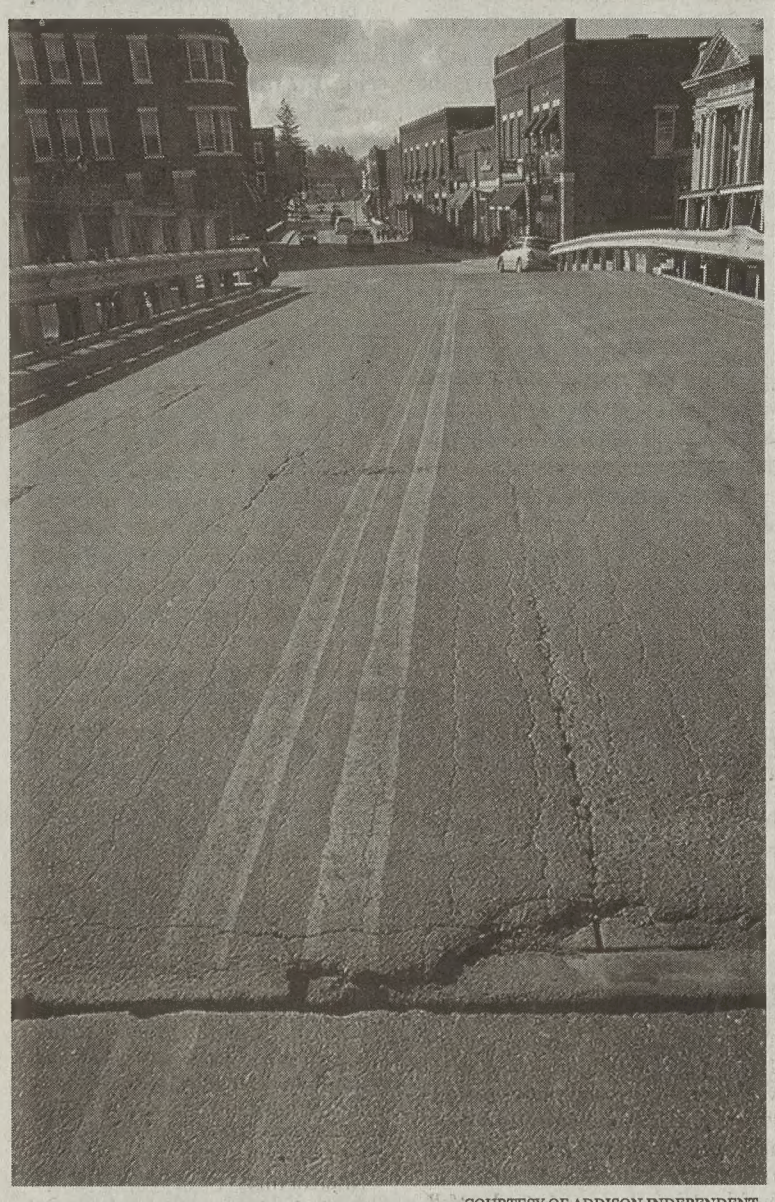
Town Awarded Grant to Aid Struggling Businesses

By JAEHEE PARK
Contributing Writer

MIDDLEBURY — The town of Middlebury received a $75,000 grant from the Vermont Agency of Transportation to support local businesses as the impacts of the construction of the Middlebury Bridge & Rail Project start to hit the town.

The construction is projected to cost $71 million, as VTrans works with the town to replace the two rail bridges downtown with a tunnel. The bridges are located on Main Street and Merchants Row. The two original bridges were almost 100 years old and rapidly deteriorating, leading the state to declare them unsafe and in "emergency condition" in March of 2017.

Temporary bridges were installed in August of 2017 to address the problem until summer 2020, when the new tunnels are projected to reach completion. However, the temporary bridge currently in place on Main Street has begun to show "alligator cracking," due to heavy vehicles and the grade of the temporary bridge. VTrans anticipated these problems, and plans to repave the bridge deck and perform maintenance this summer.



COURTESY OF ADDISON INDEPENDENT

"Alligator cracking" in pavement.

The maintenance will require the temporary bridge to be shut down for at least several days. This year, the project will also involve creating a new drainage system, relocating key utilities and creating better access to the parking lot at Battell Block.

Unfortunately, local businesses have already begun to experience financial difficulties as a result of the construction project. For instance, according to the Addison County Independent, Carol's Hungry Mind Café owner John Mealanson reported economic struggles starting with the shutdown of the original rail bridges.

"Business dropped off dramatically," Mealanson said. "The summer tourist season is what carries us through the year, and being down just for that brief period, and then making it more inconvenient with parking and for pedestrians, has really cost us."

The construction has led to the loss of nine parking spaces in front of Carol's Hungry Mind Café, as well as five more spaces near the post office. In addition, the construction has made traffic flow in Merchants Row much more inconvenient for pedestrians, leading to an overall decrease in customer traffic in downtown Middlebury. This makes attracting customers difficult for local businesses fronting Main Street and Merchants Row, such as Carol's Hungry Mind Café, that rely on foot traffic walk-ins.

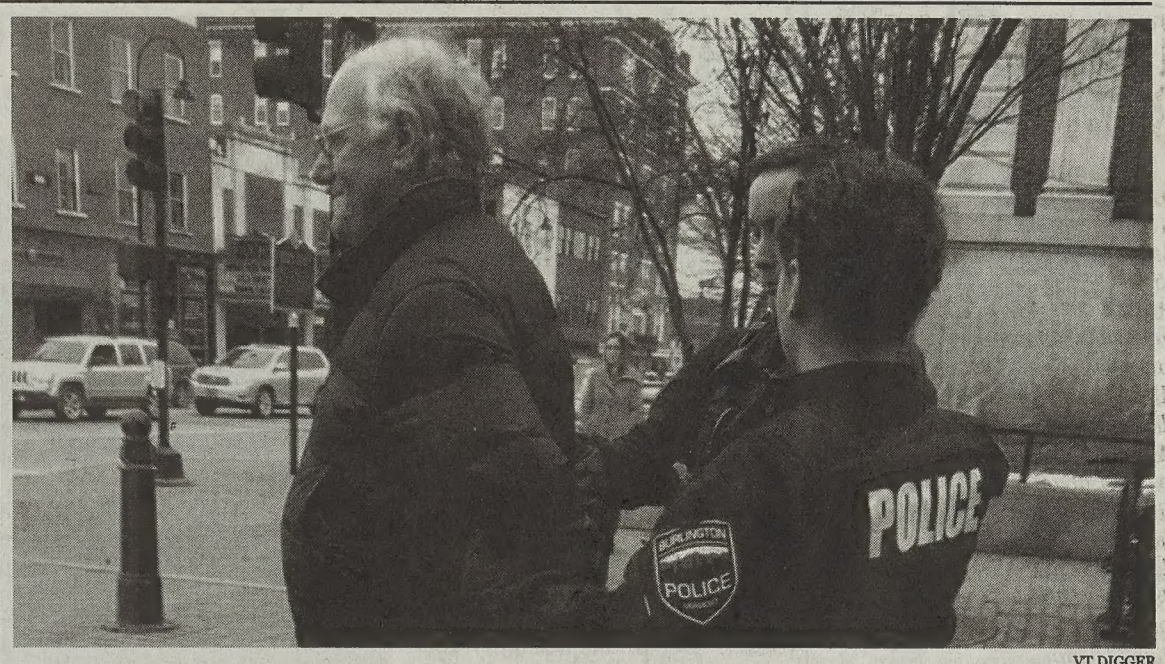
Jim Gish, the rail bridge project's community liaison, acknowledged the temporary financial hardships for the local business community and said that he is "doing everything we can to drive business during the summer of 2020." He predicts that the most challenging impacts will hit that summer, as the rail bridge project comes to a close and construction will require shutting down Main Street and Merchants Row for an estimated ten weeks in order to finish building the tunnels. This is notable, as many local businesses earn significant parts of their revenue during the summer tourist seasons.

The $75,000 grant by VTrans is the first of three parts. Two more similarly sized grants will be given to the town in 2019 and 2020 respectively, as construction on the rail bridges continues. This grant is a response to Middlebury and the Bridge & Rail Project directly submitting a budget request to VTrans last December to help support local businesses and make up for the financial loss during construction. VTrans has previously given grants to other towns in Vermont for similar purposes to help local businesses during large scale construction projects.

This first grant will be used to supplement the marketing branch that can help out local businesses through 2018. According to Gish, the grant is divided into three parts "so we can gain experience in what works and what doesn't to be best effective in supporting local businesses. The key focal point is the ambitious local shop campaign driven by both traditional and new social media advertising, and then go back to the state in 2019 and 2020 for more funding."

The marketing branch is coordinated by Neighbors Together, a local community action forum at St. Stephen's Church with Reverend Susan McGarry. Neighbors Together includes not only St. Stephen's Church, but also the Local Project Management team, Better Middlebury Partnership, Addison County Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Improvement District Commission, Middlebury College, Town Hall Theater and Addison Central Supervisory Union. The partnership group's goal is to create a solution-driven action plan and help Middlebury sustain and flourish its local businesses during the construction project. According to the Addison County Independent, current proposed plans for 2018 include, "shopping promotions, a loyalty rewards program, multi-media advertising campaigns, events, website infrastructure and improved signage and beautification efforts."

However, while the short term impacts are harmful to local businesses, Gish says that the $71 million improvement in infrastructure will be a "long term significant improvement in streetscape and infrastructure downtown, driving business up. The project will rebuild rail tracks up to Elm Street and include a fully upgraded rail corridor to pave the way for Amtrak to start and allow opportunities for Middlebury to connect to New York's Penn Station in 2021."



VT DIGGER

The cofounder of Ben & Jerry's was arrested for blasting jet flight sounds from the back of a pickup truck, in protest of the F-35 fighter jets that are coming to Burlington Airport this fall.

Ben of Ben & Jerry's Arrested at Protest

By KENSHIN CHO
Contributing Writer

BURLINGTON — Ben Cohen, co-founder of Ben and Jerry's ice-cream, was arrested in Burlington last Tuesday for violating the city's noise ordinances. He and two other activists were protesting the proposal to bring F-35 fighter jets to Burlington International Airport. From speakers attached to the back of a pickup truck, they played sounds simulating the noise-level of a jet flying above.

Their objective? To demonstrate the disruption that the planes will cause in the community.

For more than five years, residents around the airport have been bracing for the arrival of 18 new F-35s. The jet is touted as one of the most technologically advanced systems ever designed, commissioned to replace the aging F-16s. But such ambitions have led to significant cost overruns, delays, safety concerns and a myriad of other issues. In Vermont, critics have zoned in on another key concern: noise. Four times louder than the old jets, the F-35s will displace a large population of South Burlington residents living near the airport.

According to federal regulations, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has the authority to initiate voluntary buyout programs in areas where the noise average exceeds 65 decibels. At this level, people are at risk of hearing loss, and children are at risk of suffering from developmental issues. The FAA has already bought and demolished over 200 homes in the vicinity of Burlington Airport. It plans to do more.

"I felt like it [our house] was being taken away from us by people that couldn't give a shit, really. They didn't care," said Carmine Sargent, a local resident of 45 years, in an interview with the VTDigger.

Critics argue that politicians and businesses are using the FAA to advance their own agendas. They claim that the Burlington government, instead of supporting non-destructive efforts to mitigate noise, are demolishing low-income neighborhoods to expand the airport.

"They want a hotel on their own property. They want restaurants. There was an idea for a spa over there," a local resident said of Burlington's officials. "It does not meet the reality and the needs of this area. And at the same time, you've destroyed a great neighborhood."

Officials resist the accusations. In a community meeting last February, Richard Doucette, the FAA's New England Environmental Program manager, talked to residents about the viability of different noise protection efforts that don't involve buyouts.

"Theoretically, there are measures, and if [noise barriers] were found to be more effective, we would have built more. But we haven't built any since I've been with the FAA in New England," Doucette said, stressing the limited options they have at protecting residents from noise.

Many critics have also suggested alternatives to the F-35. In a letter to voters, lawmakers from Chittenden County cited Air Force statements from 2010 assuring residents that the Vermont Air National Guard will maintain a presence regardless of the status of the F-35.

"[The National Guard] could fly another fighter aircraft, or a military transport, or drones, or perform cyber security missions," the lawmakers wrote in their letter.

But it's unlikely that officials will reconsider the arrival of the 18 jets. The Vermont Guard is built around its fighter squadron, making the jets a crucial part of their missions overseas. Currently, they are preparing for a major deployment in 2019. As part of the efforts, 41 airmen are training in facilities around the country to fly and maintain the F-35s.

"There is no alternative mission being planned for the Vermont Air National Guard," said Maj. Gen. Steven Cray in a press conference last Friday.

"The airport is our number one, two and three economic stimulators. Anything I can do to strengthen the economic viability of Burlington, I'm in."

The state's congressional delegation is also unanimous in its support for the F-35. In fact, Senator Patrick Leahy has faced controversy over his role in bringing the jets to Vermont, pressuring the Air Force to abandon their preferred locations. In a statement to the VTDigger, he denied these allegations.

Much of the support for the F-35 jets stems from the economic benefits that the airport and its military use brings to the city. In an interview with VPR, Lt. Col. Daniel Finnegan of the F-35 integration office, said that the Guard has already spent $83 million preparing the base, and will be doing more. In addition to the one-time integration efforts, the airport receives millions in annual funding from the FAA thanks to its nature as a dual-purpose civilian and military airport. Many supplementary jobs, like the Guard's Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting force (which spends about $2 million dollars annually), exist thanks to the jets.

Their support is shared by many in the business community. The Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation (GBIC), a non-profit promoting economic interests in the region, has advocated in favor of the jets.

"The airport is our number one, two and three economic stimulators," said Ernie Pomerleau of the GBIC in an interview with the VTDigger. "Anything I can do to strengthen the economic viability of Burlington, Vermont, I'm in."

In addition to the direct jobs that the Guard's forces provide, improvements to Burlington Airport are part of a larger plan by lawmakers and business leaders to revitalize the aerospace industry in the state. There are companies across New England and Quebec that they hope to attract to Vermont. GE Aviation, which landed a $1 billion contract to manufacture F-35 engines in 2016, for example, runs a plant in Rutland.

Still, to the residents losing their houses, such arguments appear dismissive, and the officials' response even patronizing.

"For me, this is my home," a local resident said. "A lot of people don't get this. Well, if you grow up in a home, and you've been there for 30, 40, 80 years, you get attached to your home. You have memories there."

HELP: Opioid Education Program

By QUINN BOYLE
Contributing Writer

A man and a woman were found in a car. Eyes closed. Bodies slumped. Heads limp against their seat rests. Mouths wide open. The woman's skin has a bluish hue. And in the backseat, there's a little boy in a dinosaur shirt, fully awake, only four years old.

Photos of this family, published on the Facebook page for the city of East Liverpool, Ohio, shocked the world. Yet, they reveal a common occurrence in the story of America's opioid crisis. In an interview for NPR's "All Things Considered," East Liverpool's police chief, John Lane, explained the decision to post the controversial images: "We need help. We're strapped with resources as far as trying to handle this kind of thing, and I don't think the public is aware of the problem as far as how this affects not only the person that's addicted but how it affects the family and everyone around them."

Overdose is now the leading cause of death for people within the prime of their lives. With an understaffed police department and inadequate resources, Chief Lane looks toward education. "Resources are needed to go into the schools and teach from kindergarten up," he said. "They should be pounding into these kids' heads what can happen, how you can become addicted, what happens once you become addicted and how you can become one of these addicts that you see on TV or in the arrests and what you can do to keep yourself from getting there."

Chief Lane's NPR interview resonated with many listeners, among whom was Jeremy Holm. Holm is a House of Cards series actor living in Vergennes, Vermont. He witnessed the perils of opioids firsthand when his friend, fellow actor Philip Seymour Hoffman, died from a heroin overdose in 2014. Listening to Chief Lane's appeal for opioid education made Holm think of his own daughters. He decided he was going to educate his kids about the dangers of drug use, and it would not stop there.

"We need help. We're strapped with resources as far as trying to handle this kind of thing, and I dont think the public is aware of the problem as far as how it affects not only the person that's addicted but everyone around them."

In October 2016, Holm met with Addison County's Regional Prevention Partnership Coordinator Jesse Brooks to discuss the initial plans for what would become known as the HELP program.

HELP, which stands for Heroin Epidemic Learning Program, is an 8 to 10-week voluntary program that exposes high school students to the dangers of opioids. The first four weeks of the program are hosted by various volunteer experts including representatives from AEMT, law enforcement and addiction recovery. During the second half of the program, students are placed in groups and use what they learn to film an original, 30-second public service announcement (PSA). The PSAs are submitted to the HELP committee, where they are individually viewed and judged. The best PSA gets professionally edited to air on local and national television, and the students win a prize.

Today, few opioid- and heroin-specific programs exist in high schools across the country. As a result, HELP is a one of a kind program, and Vermont schools are readily embracing it. "When we started talking about this program, we thought of a three-to-five-year plan," Jesse Brooks said of the initial expectations for HELP's adoption into schools. "Really we were in schools about a month and a half after our discussion."

HELP is currently implemented as either an elective course or part of pre-existing curriculum at Vergennes Union High School, Mt. Abraham Union High School, Randolph Union High school and Hannaford Career Center. The program continues to

Continued on Page A4

The Yellow Iris Strikes Vermont

By ISABEL EMSFELD
Contributing Writer

MIDDLEBURY — Deceptively beautiful, the Yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), a vibrant yellow flower that looks like it could belong in a cheerful garden, is actually a dangerous invasive species that is classified by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture as a Class B Noxious Weed. According to the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group, the yellow iris is "a perennial that grows to a height of 1 to 3 feet, with grassy or sword-like leaves and showy, lemon-yellow flowers from May to July." The yellow iris is a native plant of Europe, and can be found growing along the edges of lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams, and immersed in water up to 25 cm (10 in.) deep.

So why is this beautiful flower a danger to wildlife, especially in Lake Champlain's wetland area and flood plains forest areas in Vermont? The yellow iris grows at an accelerated pace that threatens to out-compete surrounding native species. This plant reproduces through rhizomes and seeds, which are carried down waterways, and spread rapidly. According to the Lewis Creek Association, here in Vermont, the "Lower Thorp Brook is a diverse beaver-influenced corridor, and

INVASIVE SPECIES SOCIETY

A yellow iris blossom.

serves as the primary iris seed source for the wetlands at its confluence with Lake Champlain." The yellow iris' rhizomes create a thick mat that prevents other wildlife's seeds from germinating. This dense growth of the iris can clog irritation systems and streams and, by trapping sediment in the roots, can narrow waterways.

One plant — the native green arrow arum (*Peltandra virginica*) — is in direct competition with the Yellow iris. The arrow arum is an important source of food for the wood duck. The Yellow iris also crowds out other vital aquatic plants, such as cattails and other native irises. This causes a lack of space, nesting areas and accessible food sources for many native wildlife and fish.

In Vermont, the Yellow iris is becoming increasingly more present in various wetlands and bodies of water in the Lake Champlain watershed that are considered "priority natural communities." According to the Lewis Creek Association, "these wetlands are considered state waters, comprising a fifty-three acre matrix of wetland natural communities, whose value has been acknowledged by VT DEC, VT FWD Natural Heritage Program and TNC experts. The lake-influenced lower reaches of Lewis Creek contain important floodplain forests, buttonbush swamps and a range of state significant emergent communities."

The yellow iris not only grows quickly, it is also adaptable to grow in many different ecosystems. Vtinvasives.org warns, "It grows well in freshwater wetlands and can tolerate high acidity. In its native habitat, Iris pseudacorus can tolerate living in the upper zones of salt marshes, where it may be surrounded by saline water." Due to this flexibility, the yellow iris has been able to thrive and continues to spread in many areas across the United States. In addition, the yellow iris is toxic to all livestock and grazing animals, and contains toxins that cause minor skin irritation to humans.

To tackle this pressing issue, the Lewis Creek Association (LCA) began a long-term project in 2015 to identify high concentrations of yellow iris and remove iris when possible. According to www.lewiscreek.org, "LCA received a grant from LCBP [Lake Champlain Basin Program] to continue this work in 2017, which will: 1. Fund the preparation of a management plan and treatment of yellow iris in the lower Thorp Brook areas, with a targeted 90 percent reduction of iris. 2. Meet with professional experts and landowners in Lower Lewis Creek (a priority Natural Heritage area with increasing high yellow iris infestation levels) to discuss and identify mutually agreeable yellow iris control options."

In order to remove the yellow iris from its location, and prevent it from spreading, it must be manually dug out, or, in certain cases, an herbicide treatment has been proven successful. Through the grant given to LCA by the LCBP, the Lewis Creek Association has been able to "quantify current levels of infestation, characterize the rate of spread and behavior of the exotic species at both a landscape level and within priority natural communities and identify best control methods by evaluating available control options including manual and herbicide-based control."

Moving forward, "This year's control work builds upon two seasons of studying and mapping iris infestation, threat and spread; and validating control methods in the lower reaches of Thorp Brook," according to Krista Hoffsis, Program Coordinator of LCA.

The LCA is avidly working towards the removal of the Yellow iris, due to its devastating effects upon priority natural communities in the Lake Champlain wetlands and flood plain forests of Champlain direct drainage stream. Through access to grants and hard work from volunteers and employees, the LCA is in the process of mapping survey areas impacted by the yellow iris, tracking growth patterns and occurrences, completing site assessments and utilizing GPS points and flagging (LCA Iris Final Report).

The battle over the yellow iris and other invasive species rages on, but through dedication and commitment, hopefully the Lake Champlain area will soon be free of the iris' threat to the gorgeous local wildlife that is vital to Vermont's natural splendor.

INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL OF BC

Researchers collect yellow irises that have invaded regions of British Columbia.

Vermont's Criminal Justice System: Restorative Justice

VERMONT PUBLIC RADIO

A prison in St. Albans, Vt.

By CHRISTOPHER GERNON
Series Writer

MONTPELIER — In addition to protecting the general population, incarceration is meant to serve as a punishment to criminals in order to discourage the commitment of further crimes. However, recidivism is high for those who enter the prison system. 67.8 percent of the 404,638 state prisoners released in 2005 in 30 states were arrested again within 3 years of release, and 76.6 percent were arrested within 5 years of release, according to a special report from the U.S. Department of Justice that looked at recidivism from 2005 to 2010.

To make matters worse, that state of Vermont has more inmates than prison beds available. "Today, Vermont has a total incarcerated population of 1744. Of that, 1,585 are men. We only have 1,300 male beds. As a result, we have about 230 inmates out of state," said Lisa Menard, the commissioner for the Vermont Department of Corrections (DOC). For a state that has more prisoners than beds available, looking for ways to decrease the recidivism rate is paramount. One such alternative that the state has adopted is a method of restorative justice.

Restorative justice is a broad term that describes a collective rehabilitation process involving the offender, the victim of the crime, and the community.

"Restorative justice means that a person who has committed an offense takes responsibility for that offense and tries to make amends to the victim and the community for their behavior," Menard explained.

"One of the nice things is that it really takes the victim into account," added "It asks: what are their needs? In the criminal justice system, crime is viewed as a violation of the law and the state, whereas restorative justice looks at it as a violation of people or relationships."

Restorative Justice Centers (RJCs) are the cornerstones of restorative justice. The Vermont DOC allocates 3 million general fund dollars to RJCs annually. Although each center is run differently, they offer the same programming. Vermont is the only state to have an RJC in every county.

From transportation and housing to alcohol and drug services, Restorative Justice Centers serve a variety of functions and provide an assortment of services. RJCs are geared to serve two demographics: those who are at a high-risk of entering the criminal justice system, and those who have served time and are looking to be reintegrated back into society. RJCs work with anybody in the criminal justice system at any time as long as they take responsibility for the crime they committed. One notable restorative justice program is the Circle Of Support and Accountability (COSA).

The COSA program is a reentry program for high-risk offenders, available following their served prison time. In order to run this program, RJCs find three volunteers from the surrounding community who go through a training and make an agreement to meet with an offender twice a week every week for a year, working to repair the harm the offender has done.

The offender agrees to be honest about what their needs are in order best to work with volunteers. Conversely, volunteers agree to support and follow any rules that the DOC has set or that the offender has set for themselves.

"Bottom line of the COSA program is no secrets and no more victims," said Kym Anderson, the director of the Randolph Community Justice Center. "If a person coming out of jail has a social support network, they are significantly less likely to reoffend."

Being placed on Reparative Probation — a program similar to COSA — versus Standard Probation decreases the odds of a new conviction during probation by 23 percent. Furthermore, the odds of a new conviction after probation are reduced by 12 percent for those on Reparative Probation rather than Standard Probation, according to a study titled, "Reparative versus Standard Probation: Community Justice Outcomes."

The study outlines another program that acts to prevent individuals from ever entering the criminal justice system. People who commit low-level crimes can be referred by police, school, state's attorneys or judges to participate in a community reparative panel. Offenders agree to meet with the volunteers on their community reparative panel to come up with a plan to repair the harm their crime caused. If the offender chooses to go through the restorative program and is able to complete it, they will avoid a criminal conviction on their record.

While choosing to participate in the restorative justice program may seem like the easy way out, participating in the community reparative panel is a commitment some cannot handle.

"Many people who are not interested in repairing harm find going through the panel more onerous than going through court," Anderson said. "They drop out of the panel and decide to go to court because they see going to court as easier than the panel."

While participating in restorative justice programs has been proven to reduce the likelihood of perpetrators committing another crime, Laura Zeliger, the Community & Restorative Justice Director in Vermont, does not think that it is always a better alternative.

"I would say it's not better than the traditional legal system," Zeliger said. "I would say that it's an option for some individuals. Some would argue it's better on a case by case basis. You would have to ask those people if they feel better by the end of the process."

Restorative justice has been found to be unsuccessful in two specific situations. Restorative justice does not work when the offender refuses to take responsibility for the crime they committed, and it has not worked for crimes involving domestic or sexual violence.

While restorative justice has been in Vermont for 20 years, it is in the process of being revamped. "We have seen a shift towards evidence-based assessments and evidence-based programming — meaning using what we know works because it's been shown to work by scientific method," Menard said. "That way we know we're spending very precious general fund dollars for what is the most effective."

Although there are a lot of flaws to our inherently racist criminal justice system, restorative justice is a good first step.

"Restorative justice boils down to offender accountability and the opportunity to repair harm to the victim or the community for harm that's been created through law breaking or violations," Zeliger said. "Restorative justice gives offenders a chance to repair the harm and allows victims a voice in the process."

Editor's note: This article is the second in a series.

Opioid Education Program Spreads

Continued from Page A3

expand. "Once the Vermont state police got involved they started sharing social media updates of the program, and more people became aware the program existed," said Jesse Brooks.

Not only is HELP unique in targeting the opioid epidemic, but the program is also different from other drug programs in its lack of censorship. The program is raw. Holm and Brooks started an education plan that involves people as well as data. Hosts of the program share personal experiences, giving students the ability to interact with their narratives. "We open it up and we say that as long as you are respectful you can have any conversation you want to have with these folks," said Brooks. "We are not censored, there are no limits."

HELP shows students the opioid epidemic through an unvarnished lens. Brooks remarked that the content can be difficult because some students are living it.

"To those students we are saying, you are not alone. For the kids who have not been immersed in that world, we are bringing it to them and making it real," said Brooks. "Nobody is off limits here. There is no demographic. Not if you are poor or you are rich, if you are black or you are white. They become comfortable with a very, very difficult topic."

On Tuesday, March 6, at Hannaford Career Center, eight juniors and two seniors, who are currently taking a Medical Professions Course that has adopted the HELP program into its curriculum, worked on pitching their PSA ideas to Brooks.

When asked about the most important thing the students learned from the HELP program, Walker, a junior, responded: "You learn that there are a lot more resources than you think. Jesse gave me a card to go to United Way to pick up a bottle of Narcan because I am training to be a first responder. One of the presenters is a counselor to whom I can refer other people."

Brooks and Holm created a system that educates, empowers and allows students to exercise their creativity. The two established a platform for conversation, as well as a foundation for furthering ties between people who struggle. Students are affected and informed. And this program goes beyond the opioid crisis.

"There is going to be a pendulum swing. Eventually, it is not going to be the opioid epidemic," said Brooks about the future of the HELP program. "There is always a pendulum swing. With this program, you can take the basic framework of it and shift it to something else."

A Strange Beauty: Understanding the Octopus

By APRIL QIAN
Staff Writer

Professor Tom Root in the biology department spoke on Friday, March 2, to pods of students and professors from a plethora of scientific disciplines, including biology, neuroscience and psychology, about his lab's prolific work on the California Two-Spot Octopus (Octopus bimaculoide), a species considered to be the white mouse of cephalopod research.

The title of the talk was "Strange Beauty," a reference to a line in a poem by Arthur Clement Hilton. Titled "Octopus," the poem intentionally caricatures the "eight-limbed and eight-handed" creature into a cunning marine monster, an entertaining but somewhat anthropomorphic characterization that has limited scientific accuracy.

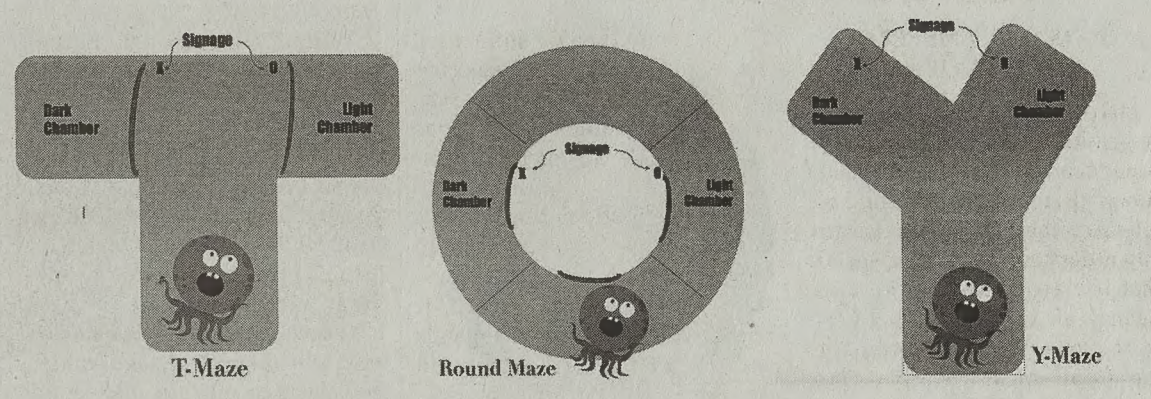
From a neurobiological perspective, octopuses are of particular interest because the lobes and regions of their brain are remarkably similar to those in mammals, so any insights gleaned from research on octopuses could potentially allow for better understanding of the mammalian and human nervous system.

Research on cephalopod intelligence boomed after an influential 1992 study published in Science Magazine by researchers Fiorito and Scotto on observational learning in Octopus vulgaris, which focused on whether octopuses could learn by observing the actions and corresponding consequences of other octopuses.

Using positive and negative reinforcement associated with white and red balls, respectively, the researchers reported that the octopus learned from the example of an octopus on the other side of the glass to choose the correct ball, despite having been exposed to neither positive nor negative reinforcement associated with either ball.

Unfortunately, though this paper initially inspired much excitement in the field, subsequent follow-up attempts by other researchers, including that of the Root lab in 2008, to reproduce Fiorito and Scotto's results were found unsuccessful, and the octopuses used in the original study were found to have been raised in unusually competitive and forced social environments, rendering the results unreproducible and flawed.

The Root lab then switched gears to the feeding behavior of Octopus bimaculoide, focusing on their association of preferred conditions or food with visual, auditory and chemical stimuli. The work of alumna Alexa Warburton '10 expounded upon the ability of octopuses to learn to associate a visual sign such as "x" or "o" to preferred or non-preferred conditions in a variety of paradigms. In just one summer, the accuracy rate of octopuses finding their preferred dark chamber in a T-maze increased from 50 percent to over 80 percent.



PBS LEARNINGMEDIA

The various mazes the Root Lab used to study octopus behavior and preferences.

Other paradigms such as the round maze and the Y-maze were also used to test how quickly and accurately the octopuses associated different images, sounds, motion and chemicals with their preferred conditions or source of food.

Later researchers in the Root lab tested the same visual stimuli in the tank that the octopuses inhabited to reduce the impact of other variables such as the observer effect. Throughout the past decade, the work of various students in the Root lab showed that octopuses preferred dimly lighted areas and tended to attack prey more often in the presence of red colors, contrasting colors, polarized light and a chemical called proline that is often used in the fishing industry.

Cece Wheeler '19 started working in the octopus lab this spring.

"Twice a week I go into the lab and tie a fiddler crab to a piece of fishing wire, and then lower that into the octopus tank to see if I can get one of the octopuses to come out overtop different types of substrates that I've laid down," she said. "As [the octopuses] move onto the substrate, they camouflage themselves to it, typically in a uniform, mottled or disturbance pattern in response to the different patterns of substrate."

A future area of research for the Root lab lies in the development of camouflage in baby octopuses, which often begins immediately after birth.

"The lab has done some past work with learning, but I think the consensus now is that it's hard to judge how an animal is making decisions without understanding the basics of how they are receiving and interpreting information from the world around them," Wheeler said. "Right now I'm starting work with camouflage behaviors. I want to know more about what environmental cues initiate different camouflage patterns. There are a lot of different aspects to an octopus' surroundings, and I'm curious as to which ones it is responding to when it camouflages itself."

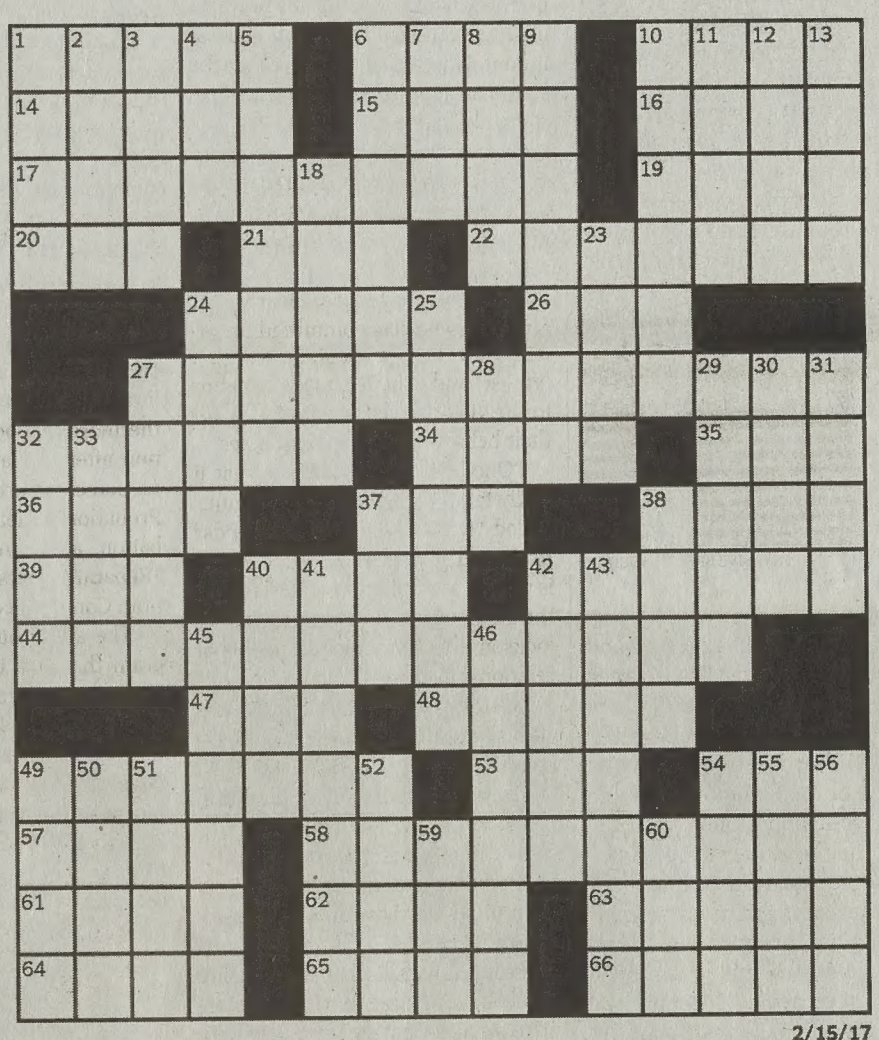
Instead of rationalizing octopus behavior through a human lens, such an approach attempts to understand the decision-making process of octopuses through examining their perception of the world.

"All of the our animals are juveniles right now, so they aren't full grown, and some are slightly bigger than others," Wheeler said. "They also like to hide in flower pots, behind bricks, or under pieces of coral, so it's kind of trick figuring out how to lure them out effectively. I also record everything on a video camera so I can go back and look at the footage later. Hopefully I will be able to categorize camouflage responses to different substrate patterns, and come up with an analysis of that data this spring."

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Doc on a battlefield
6 Captain of literature
10 Unwanted subway sights
14 Honda division
15 Singer Bareilles
16 Water, south of the border
17 *"We used some food to make a snowman. Under his arms we put ___"*
19 Writer Morrison
20 The sun
21 Prov. north of Northumberland Strait
22 Dakar's land
24 Picked up via gossip
26 Used to own
27 *"Then we gave him ___"*
32 Touch of love
34 Kind of clef
35 Half a kisser
36 During
37 Org. for drivers
38 Christian with some intelligent designs?
39 Plop down
40 Tiny problem
42 Crewmate of Sulu and Bones
44 *"On top we put a ___"*
47 Last word of the Pledge of Allegiance
48 South Beach plan and others
49 Obama adviser Valerie
53 Playwright Will who wrote "The Realistic Joneses"
54 Mom-and-pop org.
57 Admit frankly
58 *"Finally, we stuck in two ___. Yum!"*
61 Rigatoni's cousin
62 Berry imported from Brazil
63 Counterfeiter, e.g.
64 Newswoman Paula
65 Neat, as a lawn
66 "Ciao!"



2/15/17

DOWN

1 Decidedly non-PC types?
2 Comeback in a cave
3 Burr/Hamilton showdown
4 Abbr. on some sale goods
5 Completely covers
6 Dream
7 "Bali ___"
8 Newspaper section
9 Single, say
10 Like "Pocahontas" or "Mulan"
11 Like a kid in a candy store
12 StarKist product
13 Something that's frequently trimmed
18 Poet who wrote "In dreams begins responsibility"
23 Small iPod
24 Toned
25 Was boring, as a meeting
27 Water filter brand
28 State with 1,350 miles of coastline: Abbr.
29 Type of type
30 What revolting people do?
31 Not showing one's age, say
32 Check alternative
33 Gallic girlfriend
37 "___ Joey" (Rodgers and Hart musical)
38 Word files, briefly
40 Palm : hand :: ___ : foot
41 Cowboys, but not Indians
42 Worker whose name is, appropriately, an anagram of NOTES
43 Jeans style
45 Champion of evolution
46 Makes a connection
49 Grammy category
50 New Balance competitor
51 Philip who said "goodbye" to Columbus
52 ___ Bell
54 Szczecin resident
55 Weight classification
56 "___ Karenina"
59 Lacking refinement
60 Capital of Colombia?

Welcome to this paper's first crossword puzzle! For this week's puzzle, we borrowed from the February 15, 2017 issue of The New York Times. However, we are looking for a crossword editor(s) to help us put together original crosswords each week. Interested? Email campus@middlebury.edu with a sample crossword.

We look forward to hearing from you!

DON'T MISS THIS

Evolution: Mind over Matter
You doubted me, but look at me now! This theme is meant to showcase our resilience to overcome the difficult obstacles that present themselves, especially as they pertain to our personal experience on Middlebury's campus.
3/16, Friday, 8 p.m., Wilson Hall, McCullough Student Center. $6.

An Evening of Songs and Arias
Select music students present a variety of songs, duets, and arias that range from the Baroque era to the present. Accompanied by affiliate artist Cynthia Huard and by Annemieke McLane, piano. A Music Department event.
3/17, Saturday, 3 p.m., 8 p.m., MCA Robison Hall. Free.

Communicating Across Divides
Katharine Hayhoe, Climate scientist and evangelical Christian, and author amd Schumann Distinguished Scholar Bill McKibben will discuss how today's most important conversation isn't about why climate change matters; it's about learning to communicate with people from different perspectives.
3/20, Tuesday, 4:30 p.m., Davis Family Library 105. Free.

The Librarian Is In

By KATRINA SPENCER
Senior Columnist

Literatures and cultures librarian Katrina Spencer is liaison to the Anderson Freeman Resource Center, the Arabic department, the French department, the Gender Sexuality & Feminist Studies (GSFS Program), the Language Schools, Linguistics and the Spanish & Portuguese departments. These affiliations are reflected in her reading choices.

"While I am a very slow reader, I'm a very critical reader," she says.

My Lesbian Experience with Loneliness, by Nagata Kabi and translated by Jocelyne Allen from Japanese, 2017

AMAZON.COM

143 pages

Happy Women's History Month!

THE WHAT

This piece is a first-person, memoir manga, the first of which I've read. The story centers on a young woman, Kabi, who is anxiety-ridden about many aspects of her life: work, self-care, sexual expression, intimacy, fulfilling her parents' expectations, maintaining a stable income, approaching independence and her own mental health. While Kabi is in her 20s, she remains living at home with her parents. She has dropped out of school and acutely feels pressure from her family who wants her to be a productive member of society by becoming economically self-sufficient.

Like many people, Kabi struggles to identify how to find balance and engage with an adult world while simultaneously and gainfully pursuing something she loves and is good at. (I'm sure this last concern will have resonance with many readers of this column.) To assuage her longing for closeness to another adult woman, the author seeks out an encounter with an escort so that she might sample contact, touch and sexuality with a counterpart. This unconventional approach leads Kabi down a road of unexpected self-discovery.

Spoiler Alert: While orgasms do not ensue, something perhaps just as good does.

Trigger Warning: If you have ever struggled with an eating disorder or self-harm, you will find reflections of both in this work and a tale of triumph in the pursuit of self-love.

THE WHY

This work is housed in the browsing collection and it was likely the pink and white cover that caught my eye, and the title ("My Lesbian Experience with Loneliness") certainly stopped me: it was so honest about a central part of its subject matter: lesbianism, a minority and oft-stigmatized sexuality. The frank boldness of the title drew me in.

As I looked it over, I couldn't tell where I was supposed to start reading because unlike Western books, the "front cover" rested in my right hand. And when I read the dialog boxes in the panels, left-to-right, I did that wrong, too. Given the narrative is born of a Japanese tradition, the flow of pages and the speech bubbles go from right-to-left. (I've seen this with Arabic but not with a translated work.) With a title such as this one and a format of graphic narratives that I already love, I was won over.

While I found "profound" and/or "compelling" moments to be rare, "vulnerable" moments were common. As of December 2017, 87 out of 87 people gave this work five stars on amazon.com. It was also there that I found out the work has a sequel, "My Solo Exchange Diary."

I will commend the work for treating lesbianism without affect. That is, the narrative drew very little attention to the fact that a woman might and/or want to sexually engage with another. Her experimentation was not an "anomaly" or especially "remarkable." In passing, it did address the idea that the sex the author had been most exposed to was either between a man and a woman or two men. In other words, it suggests that internationally, lesbianism has little visibility. And moreover, sex education is neither holistic (acknowledging a multiplicity of sexualities) or required worldwide. I liked that this tale was not about "coming out" and, in that respect, it made for a progressive gesture at normalizing same-sex sex.

Lastly, the drawing throughout is certainly effective but not especially impressive. I like how manga, in print and/or on-screen, has special ways of conveying urgency and extremes.

However, the strength of this work is more the story than the visuals. For another work with a similar feel, I'd recommend "Bridget Jones' Diary" (book and DVD) as it also treats the sexcapades of a woman who often feels like a failure. And for a similar format (graphic novel) and style (memoir) that treats sexuality outside of heterosexuality, see Alison Bechdel's "Fun Home." Oh! And if you read Portuguese and want to read a professional sex worker's take on the business, grab Bruna Surfstinha's "O doce veneno do escorpião." (You can order the translation through interlibrary loan: go.middlebury.edu/ill/.) Also, "Paying For It," by Chester Brown, recounts a man's tale as he attempts to attain sex from a completely transactional approach.

WRMC Spotlight: El Mundo en la Madrugada

ALEXANDRA BURNS
Alexandra Burns' time in Spain inspired her to create her radio show "El Mundo en la Madrugada."

Who: I (Alexandra Burns) am a first-year so I started my show on WRMC last semester. I have always been super excited by podcasts and radio in general. I am a huge NPR fan and volunteered a few summers ago at my local NPR station in Maine. As soon as I got here, I knew I wanted my own show.

What: My initial idea was to have a Spanish (language) music show but I decided to change it a bit so that my theme was to pick a Spanish speaking country each week and play songs from that country. I try to choose songs that range in genre and decade because as much as I enjoy Spanish pop, I want this to be a show that is representative of the culture and history of each country I choose.

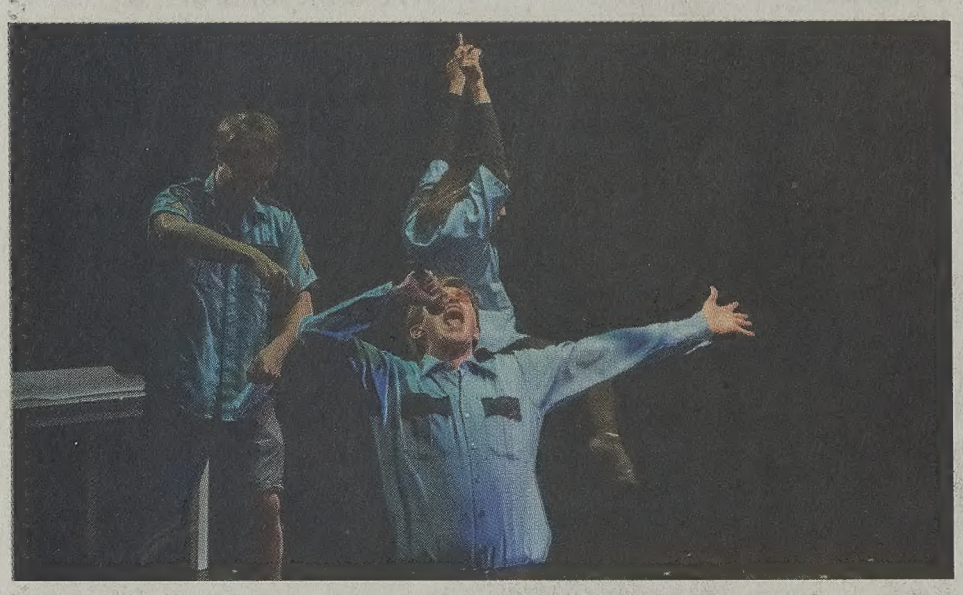
When: This semester "El Mundo en la Madrugada" airs from 10-11 a.m. on Sundays. For the non-Spanish speakers out there, the show's name translates to "the world in the early morning." 10-11 a.m. may not be early morning for all but it certainly is for college kids on a Sunday.

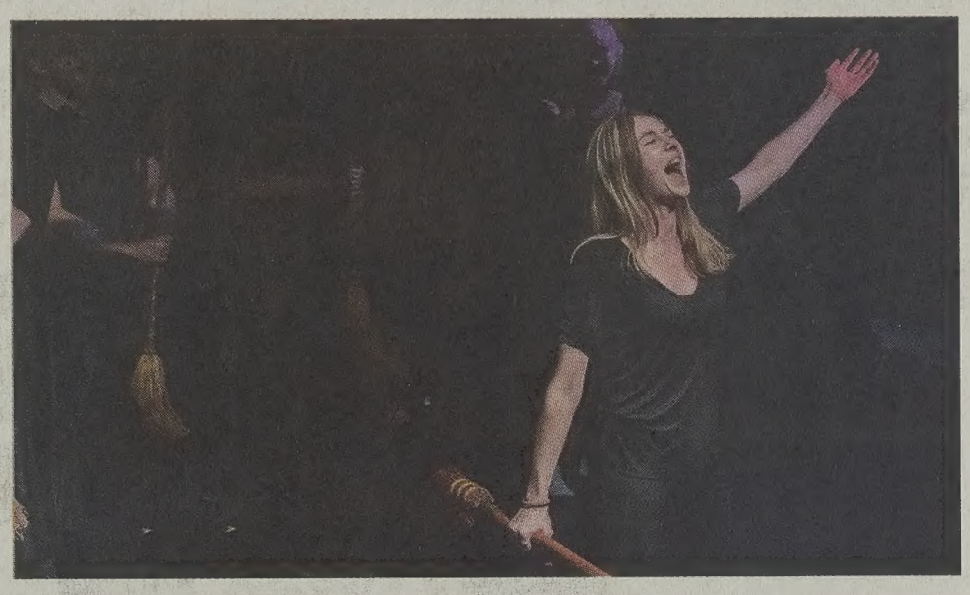
Where: You can tune into the show on WRMC 91.1 FM or listen online by going to wrmc.middlebury.edu. This show is also broadcast on a separate station for migrant workers in Vermont.

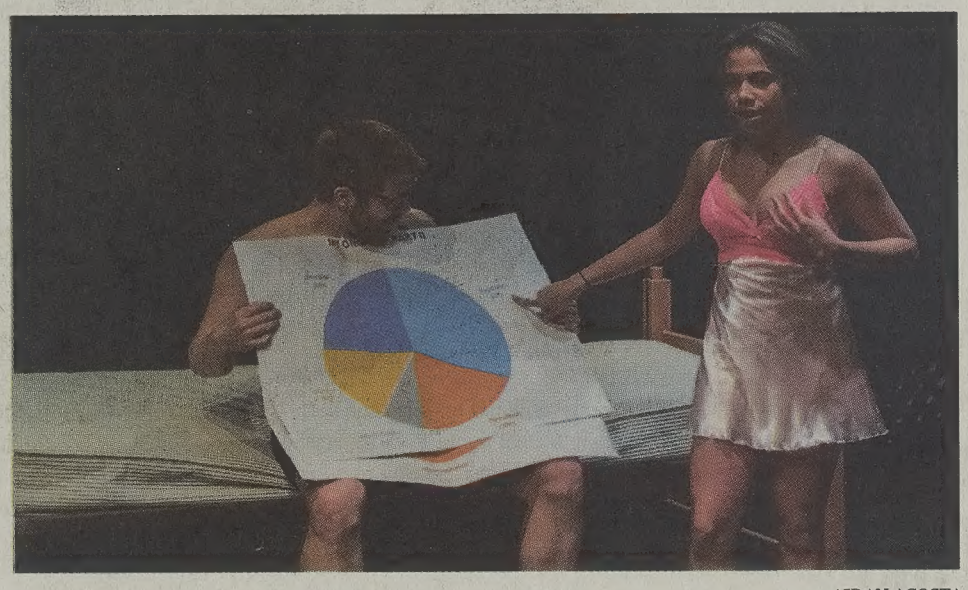
Why: I am doing this show because I want to expand my understanding of Spanish music. I lived in Spain for my final semester of high school and was introduced to lots of reggaeton, which like lots of pop music, is very catchy, talks about drinking and objectifies women. Not to discount that genre, but there is so much more Spanish music out there than "Despacito." As someone who is currently taking two classes that study Latin America, my show allows me to apply what I have learned in class to the radio. For instance, I just did a show on Uruguay and played candombe, which is a style of music and dance that comes from slaves in Uruguay. After playing a song, I talked about the history of that music and explained its significance. I like being able to play music that Midd kids and the people of Addison County might not otherwise be exposed to.

Want to be featured? Contact fmurphy@middlebury.edu

Middlebury Discount Comedy Performs







AIDAN ACOSTA
Middlebury Discount Comedy members perform in "The Good Old Days."

SPORTS & FUNNIES

More March Malaise for Midd

Women's Hockey, Men's Basketball Seasons End in Seesaw NCAA Tournament Games

WILL COSTELLO

The women's hockey team played Plattsburgh St. evenly in the first two periods, but the Cardinals edged past the Panthers with two third period goals to win the NCAA quarterfinal matchup 3–1. The defeat ended another wildly successful season for Middlebury, in which the Panthers won their third straight Nescac championship and won 20 games for the third time in four years — excluding last season when they won 19 games.

FEATURE STORY

CREATIVE MEDIA

B6

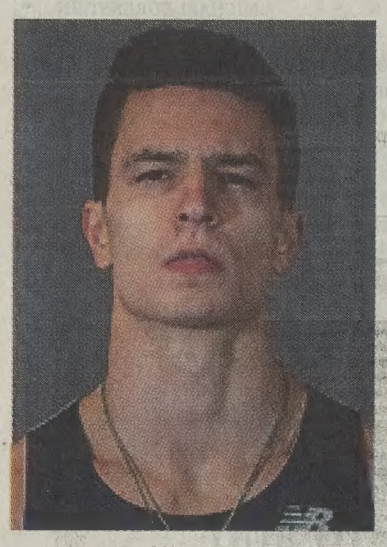
SKIING

MIDDLEBURY ATHLETICS

Caroline Bartlett '19 and Erik Arvidsson '21 earned All-American honors at the NCAA championships last week in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

B6

TRACK & FIELD



MIDDLEBURY ATHLETICS

Jimmy Martinez '19 headlined the efforts of the track and field team at NCAAs last weekend in Alabama.

B3

MEN'S LACROSSE

MIDDLEBURY ATHLETIC COMMS

The Panthers finished the season ranked 19th-nationally after its third-place finish at the CSA Team Championships.

B6

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

The Panthers are now 4–0 heading into their matchup this weekend with No. 18 Wesleyan.

B2

BASEBALL | TENNIS

B7

PLAYER AND TEAM OF THE WEEK

B2

GREAT EIGHT

B2

SUN GOES DOWN ON DALY'S TIME DIRECTING PANTHERS

By ANDREW RIGAS

With six seconds remaining, Matt Folger '18 grabbed an offensive rebound, dribbled to the three-point arc, and launched a three that bounced off the back of the rim, ending the men's basketball team's NCAA tournament run and its 2018 season last Friday, March 9. Middlebury lost to MIT 79–76 in the Sweet Sixteen of the NCAA tournament at Ramapo College in Mahwah, New Jersey. For the third straight year, the Panthers' season ended with a loss in the NCAA tournament by four or fewer points in games that could have gone either way.

Seniors Jack Daly '18, Adisa Majors '18 and Nick Tarantino '18 have all been a part of those three NCAA teams, including last season's run to the Elite Eight, and two Nescac champion teams. After a 21–7 season as senior captains, Daly, Majors and Tarantino finished their Middlebury careers with an 83–29 record. They were parts of the first team to win back-to-back Nescac championships and the team that won 27 games last season, the second-most in program history.

For the third straight game, Middlebury threw the first punch on Friday evening, taking a 12–5 lead in the first six minutes of the game. In a game shaped by counterpunches, the Engineers responded with a 13–0 run to go ahead by six. But the Panthers came right back to score 13 out of the next 15 points and led 25–20 with 7:15 left in the first half.

Tied at 34, Daly set up a Folger three with three seconds remaining in the half, sending Middlebury to the locker room up 37–34.

The Panthers held the Engineers to below thirty percent shooting from inside the arc in the first half, as Folger rejected six shots, but MIT stayed in the game by hitting seven out of 17 threes from beyond the arc.

Jack Farrell '21 stayed hot after scoring 19 in Middlebury's win in the second round of the tournament, tallying 12 on five of seven shooting in the first half on Friday.

Over the first eight minutes of the second half, every time MIT got within two points, Middlebury answered to keep the Engineers at bay.

But, at the 11:31 mark, MIT tied the game at 54 and then at 57 less than two minutes later. The Panthers rebuilt their lead to five, 67–62, but then the Engineers made their move, scoring the next eight points to go ahead by three.

Farrell drilled a three to tie the game, then MIT went ahead by five to take a 75–70 lead with 3:50 remaining. Middlebury held MIT in check over the next two possessions, but could not score either until the 1:48 mark when Daly laid the ball in to cut the lead to three.

After an Engineer miss and a Folger rebound, Middlebury pushed the ball down the court and Daly finished in the lane to cut the lead to 75–74 with 54 seconds remaining. Out of their own timeout, the Engineers held the ball, but turned it over with 25 ticks left on the clock, as Farrell stole it.

Jack Daly '18 got the ball and drove it into the lane, where he lofted a floater that rolled off the rim. MIT rebounded the basketball and made two free throws to take a three-point lead. Daly drew a foul at midcourt and sank two free throws, but MIT responded with two makes from the line. Behind 79–76, Daly missed the front end of a one-and-one after being fouled, which was the rebound Folger grabbed to launch Middlebury's final chance.

In a game featuring four lead changes and seven ties, neither team led by more than seven points. In the second half, the lead was never greater than five—at no point in the second half were the two separated by more than two possessions. But some team had to win and MIT scored when it needed to most, outscoring Middlebury 17–9 over the final 7:10 to eke out a 79–76 victory over the Panthers.

For the second straight season, Middlebury came within four wins, they were within three last season when they made the Elite Eight, and lost in the last minute of each game, making the loss especially emotional for the Panther seniors.

"The closer you get to goals, like winning a national championship, the more crushing it is when you nearly miss achieving it two years in a row," said Tarantino. "As a result, I think it's been an emotional couple of days for all us.

"Nevertheless, I'm so proud of all we've achieved this year and over my last four years."

The two Jacks led the Panthers on Saturday, as Daly scored 21 points and nabbed 13 rebounds, and Farrell added 15 points on three three-pointers. Folger tallied nine points, seven rebounds and six blocks.

Daly finished his career atop Middlebury's career assist leaderboard with 611, and set the school single-season record this year by tallying 237. He also scored 1,067 points, placing him seventh in program history in that category, and grabbed 649 rebounds. Daly is believed to be the first player in Nescac history to tally 1,000 points, 500 rebounds and 500 assists.

Continued onto Page B6

AIDAN ACOSTA

The men's basketball team led or was tied for the entire second half until 6:04 remaining, when MIT made a three to go ahead. From there, the Panthers never led again and fell to the Engineers 79–76 in the Sweet Sixteen of the NCAA tournament. Middlebury finished its season 21–7 after making its third straight NCAA tournament appearance.

MIDDLEBURY FALLS TO PLATTSBURGH

By SEBASTIAN SANCHEZ

The women's hockey team saw their season come to a close last Saturday, March 10, dropping the NCAA quarterfinal game to top-ranked, four-time defending national champion, Plattsburgh State. The game was played intensely and with a lot of grit, as both teams battled for the right to play in the Frozen Four.

The opening period gave Middlebury some opportunities to get ahead, starting with a power play just a minute into the game. Madie Leidt '21 and Jenna Marotta '19 led the charge, taking several shots on goal, but missing wide.

Later in the period, Maddie Winslow '18 had the best opportunity, beating her defender on the power-play, breaking free of the pack and sped toward the goal. Her shot, however, sailed wide, unable to take the lead. Both teams had another power-play opportunity, but neither squad was able to execute and the first stanza ended scoreless.

The Cardinals scored at the 14:34 mark of the second quarter capitalizing on the confusion of an ended power-play. While Lin Han '20 blocked a shot from the right side, the rebound found its way to Plattsburgh's Erin McArdle, who blasted it through the five-hole for a 1–0 lead.

The Panthers answered three minutes later with a power-play goal, set up beautifully by Marotta who sent the puck to Leidt. After receiving the puck, Leidt fired the shot, which was tipped in by Winslow for her 12th goal of the season.

Tied 1–1, Middlebury gave it their all in the third period, of which would be the last of their season and for the class of 2018, the last of their careers. Just a minute in, the Panthers had a power-play chance thanks to a shot by Leidt, but was stuffed by the Cardinal goalie.

Five minutes later, Plattsburgh went on top for good, scoring at the end of a power-play. Han turned the first attempt away, but the puck rolled loose on the ice and a Cardinal fathered the rebound and scored up high from the low slot.

Down 2–1, the Panthers ramped up the pressure, resorting to pulling Han with 2:12 remaining on the clock. With a six-on-five advantage, Middlebury could not find a quality shot and the Plattsburgh sealed the victory with an empty net score for the final score of 3–1.

This season, the Panthers won their third championship in just as many years, a feat no other Nescac women's hockey team has accomplished. Middlebury also graduates a core group of girls who have had an invaluable presence on the team and have helped lead the Panthers to three consecutive championships. Senior captain Janka Hlinka '18, goaltender Julie Neuberger '18 and defender Hayley LaFontaine '18, along with Winslow, Jessica Young '18 and Elizabeth Wulf '18 played significant roles throughout their four years.

Winslow had a phenomenal four years, playing in 114 games and boasting an impressive 124 points with 54 goals and 70 assists. Winslow was named Player of the Year in 2016, becoming the sixth player in history to win the award.

Jessica Young '18, who was named the 2015 Nescac Rookie of the Year, earned her fourth All-Nescac honor spot and finished her career with just as impressive stats as Winslow: 132 points on 62 goals and 70 assists. Young looked back on the last game, reflecting on the sport she has played her entire life.

"Playing in my last collegiate game was tough to say the least," said an emotional Young. "My heart just sank as the last seconds ticked off the clock and it was crazy to get back to the locker room and realize that I was taking my jersey off for the last time.

"I've been playing hockey since I was four so this whole retirement thing is going to be interesting. I absolutely think the underclassmen will step right up and take over where we left off. Those juniors are going to set their own Nescac hockey record, first grade to ever win a Nescac championship all four years of their career."

Elizabeth Wulf '18 finishes her career as a workhorse, starting in 114 games in her career and racking up 64 points over her four years, comprised of 27 goals and 37 assist. Wulf had a lot to say in reflecting on the final game of her career.

Continued onto Page B7

NO. 4 WOMEN'S LACROSSE TOPS CAMELS, ST. LAWRENCE

MIDDLEBURY 12	MIDDLEBURY 15
CONN. COLLEGE 2	ST. LAWRENCE 3

By HEATHER BOEHM

Coming off of a successful opening weekend, the fourth-ranked women's lacrosse team showed no signs of slowing down as they extended their win streak last Saturday, March 10. They came out firing on all cylinders in New London, Connecticut, en route to toppling Nescac rival Connecticut College by a 10-goal margin, 12–2. Then in their home opener on Monday, March 12, the Panthers dismantled St. Lawrence 15–3 on Kohn Field to move to 4–0.

MIDDLEBURY ATHLETIC COMMS

Emily Barnard '20.

The Panthers made themselves comfortable right away on Saturday, as Emma McDonagh '19 scored her first two goals of the match within the first six minutes of play to give the Panthers a 2–0 lead over the Camels.

Middlebury, hungry to capitalize on its advantage, showed no signs of fading, as McDonagh then assisted Georgia Carroll '18 and Emily Barnard '20 on the next two goals. Just before the 10-minute mark, Barnard tallied a second goal, assisted by Kate Zecca '20, to put the Panthers up 5–0.

After missing much of last season with a foot injury, Barnard has already scored more goals in her sophomore year than in her first year, six to five, and is happy to be back on the field again.

"I fractured my fibula and now have a plate and six screws in my ankle," Barnard detailed. "It definitely took a while to get back into shape, and I was definitely disappointed to miss out on playing field hockey."

Although the sophomore's surgery meant that she had to miss the entire field hockey season last fall and, therefore, their run to a national title, she knows that the time has allowed her to get back on track and ready to contribute to both the lacrosse and field hockey teams going forward.

"That time really allowed me to focus on rehabbing my foot and improving my skills," Barnard said. "It definitely took longer than expected, but I'm so ecstatic to be healthy and back out on the field with all of my teammates."

With just under ten minutes left in the half, Conn. College showed some resilience, when Clara Bisson slid a shot past Julia Keith '20. In the last breaths of the half, Middlebury snuck two more balls in. Carroll notched her second goal of the day, which McDonagh followed moments later with her third goal of the day to secure her first hat trick of the season.

In the second half, the Panthers continued their domination. Kirsten Murphy '21 kept the momentum going with a strong finish off a good look from Sara DiCenso '19. Barnard then joined McDonagh in the hat-trick club when she hammered a shot in just seconds after her teammate. Henley Hall '19 increased the lead to ten when she made a remarkable unassisted effort past the fading Camel defense.

The Panthers closed out the contest with two more goals in the remaining 10 minutes, courtesy of Erin Nicholas '21 — which marked the first goal of her collegiate career — and Murphy. The Camels were able to get one more shot by Keith before the last whistle sounded, which brought the competition to the final score of 12–2.

A running theme for the Panthers so far this season has been their solid defense. Barnard and her teammates noted that trend continued last weekend.

"Our defense was really solid, especially our goalie [Keith], who saved nine of 11 shots," said Barnard.

Evie Keating '18 and Alex White '19 held a strong defensive line that was headlined by Keating's four forced turnovers and four ground balls and White's five forced turnovers and six ground balls. "Conn. College could barely hold on to the ball," added Barnard.

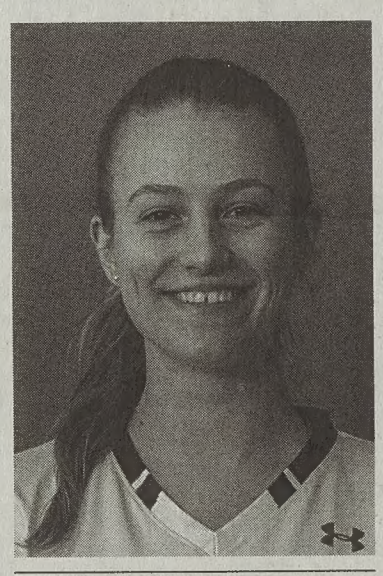
The chemistry that was notable in the season opening weekend two weeks ago was on display again last weekend.

"Ten of our goals on Saturday were off assists," Barnard reiterated. "I think that speaks to how well we work together as a team and want to see our teammates succeed."

MIDDLEBURY ATHLETIC COMMS

Alex White '19.

Evie Keating '18.



Middlebury fell behind Springfield 1–0 on Monday but scored the next eight goals on the way to a 15–3 victory. Carroll scored three more goals to bring her team-leading total to 10, and McDonagh added two goals and three assists.

The No. 4 Panthers will be back in conference action on Saturday, March 17, when they take on Wesleyan at noon in what will be their first bout this season against a ranked opponent.

And their schedule does not get any easier after that, since three of the Panthers' four opponents after Wesleyan are ranked as well, including No. 2 TCNJ. Middlebury will aim to revenge last year's 8–4 NCAA regional final loss to TCNJ

Middlebury and Wesleyan are two of the five remaining undefeated teams in the Nescac, along with Amherst, Trinity and Tufts.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE (NEXT 5)

Three of the Panthers' next five come against ranked conference opponents, with one of those games (March 31) on the road at Amherst. The No. 4 Panthers will be tested before the calendar turns to April.

Sat. 17 No. 18 Wesleyan, 12 p.m.

Sat. 24 No. 20 Bowdoin, 12 p.m.

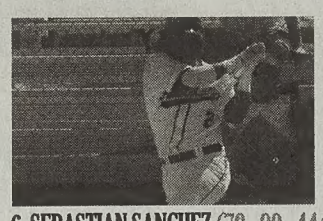
Tue. 27 at No. 2 TCNJ, 7 p.m.

Thu. 29 at Montclair St., 3 p.m.

Sat. 31 at No. 14 Amherst, 2 p.m.

GREAT 8 EIGHT

TEAM
Seb's Suggestions



6. SEBASTIAN SANCHEZ (79–99, .444)

1 Women's Lacrosse

4–0 on the season and the Panthers are just getting started, outscoring their first four opponents 46–13. #dascrazy.

2 Men's Tennis

The men's team picked up victories against Babson and Bates, taking seven of nine sets against the Bobcats and sweeping all nine from Babson for an impressive start.

3 Women's Tennis

Opening the season against Nescac rival, the women's team bested Tufts six sets to three, for the first win of the season.

4 Men's Lacrosse

These men are 2–1 on the season, with a huge upset against Bates last week and another solid win against St. Lawrence.

5 Women's Hockey

After winning their third Nescac championship in as many years (something that has never been done in Women's Nescac hockey, by the way), they fell 3–1 to Plattsburgh State, ending their Frozen Four hopes.

6 Men's Basketball

The men's team ended their NCAA run with a 76-73 loss to MIT, closing the books for Jack Daly '18, Nick Tarantino '18 and Adisa Majors '18, who have all played integral roles on the squad.

7 Baseball

The Panthers did not play their best ball, but a great start by Colby Morris '19 and a strong offensive performance against Bard in game one was the highlight of the weekend.

8 Daylight Saving

It sucks. Why does mother nature feel the need to take an hour of our beloved day? At least it is brighter outside for a taaaaaaad bit longer...

WHO WILL BUST YOUR BRACKET?

Don't forget,

Just a few hours left beofre the brackets lock!

Be sure to get a crack at the action in the Middlebury community bracket challenge through ESPN.com.

Group name: **Go Pants!**

http://games.espn.com/tournament-challenge-bracket/2018/en/group?groupID=2230362

WOMEN'S LACROSSE IWLCA COACHES POLL

*"As of March 12th

RK	SCHOOL	RECORD	PREV.
1	GETTYSBURG	4–0	1
2	TCNJ	4–0	2
3	TRINITY	2–0	3
4	**MIDDLEBURY**	**4–0**	**4**
5	SALISBURY	5–0	5
6	MARY WASHINGTON	7–0	7
7	ITHACA	3–0	8
8	F&M	3–2	9
9	YORK	2–1	6
10	TUFTS	2-0	12
11	W&L	2–4	10
12	MESSIAH	2–2	T18
13	WILLIAM SMITH	2–2	13
T14	AMHERST	3–0	20
T14	COLBY	1–2	14
16	SUNY CORTLAND	2–1	15
17	HAMILTON	1–2	17
18	WESLEYAN	3–0	T18
19	CATHOLIC	3–2	11
20	BOWDOIN	2–1	21
21	SUNY GENESEO	2–0	25
22	CMS	5–1	23
23	ST. JOHN FISHER	1–1	16
24	ROWAN	2–1	NR
25	ST. MARY'S (MD)	2–2	24

Panther Team of the Week: Women's Hockey

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN

For one last time, we thought we'd choose the women's hockey team as our team of the week — this time to celebrate their excellent season.

For the 21st time in the last 23 seasons, the Panthers won at least 19 games to go along with their third-straight Nescac tournament championship.

As good as Middlebury was this season, making it to the NCAA quarterfinals, they are set up well for the future. This becomes immediately clear with a quick glance at the Nescac individual point standings. Seniors Maddie Winslow '18 and Jessica Young '18 were second and third in the Nescac in points with 34 and 29, while first-year Madie Leidt '21 was close behind with 27.

The Panthers also return first team All-Conference defender Jenna Marotta '19, goalie Lin Han '20 and forward Katherine Jackson '19. Of course, as long as coach Bill Mandigo is at the helm, the Panthers are always in the thick of the national title hunt.

Panther Players of the Week: Caroline Bartlett '19 and Erik Arvidsson '21

EMMA STAPLETON

Erik Arvidsson '21.

EMMA STAPLETON

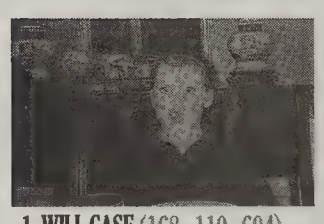
Caroline Bartlett '19.

Bartlett and Arvidsson both earned All-American honors at the NCAA championships last Wednesday and Friday, March 7 and 9, in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Bartlett did so by finishing fourth overall in the women's giant slalom event with a two-run combined time of 1:53.57, after leading all competitors after her first run.

Arvidsson finished fourth in the men's slalom with a combined time of 1:21.75. He was seventh after his first run, but his second run time moved him into fourth.

EDITORS' PICKS

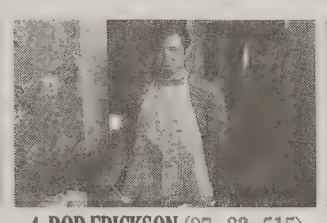


1. WILL CASE (168–110, .604)

After 476 straight days — 68 weeks — in first place, seven days of being second was enough for Will. Case climbs back on top, but can Rigas rise again?

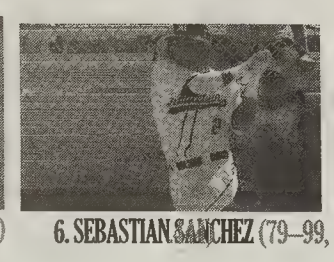
2. ANDREW RIGAS 153–103, .598)

3. ETHAN BRADY (55–41, .573)



4. ROB ERICKSON (87–82, .515)

5. MIGUEL ESPINOSA (9–9, .500)



6. SEBASTIAN SANCHEZ (79–99,

Women's Lacrosse:
Wesleyan at Middlebury (-4, Middlebury's margin of victory last season)

MIDD They will pull away from the Cardinals in this early season test.	MIDD Midd is undefeated, I can't pick against them until they lose, even with a four-point spread.	MIDD Go Lady Pants!	MIDD Four goals will take them what, five minutes?	MIDD They're riding a 4 game win streak and won't be stopping anytime soon.	MIDD If you're not picking Middlebury, what are you doing? Our girls are hot!

Men's Lacrosse:
Will the men defeat No. 9 Wesleyan?

NO It may be closer than the folks at home think though.	NO Middlebury's first road game of the season against a tough Wesleyan team, I don't think so. Gonna be a nailbiter though.	NO It'll be close, but I don't think they'll come out on top.	YES Bates fell first...	YES I'm banking on the upset.	NO Haven't said no in a while and I think Wesleyan will outflank the Pants.

March Madness: 5–12 matchups

No. 5 Kentucky vs. No. 12 Davidson

KENTUCKY Watch out. They could be poised for a big run.	DAVIDSON These guys are good, winning the A10 is an awfully tough feat, no matter what the Selection Committee thinks about the conference. They'll figure out a way to pick apart Kentucky with their prolific offense.	DAVIDSON Pulling for the upset here.	DAVIDSON 10-year anniversary, anyone?	KENTUCKY The 'Cats have been playing well heading into March Madness.	UK Without a doubt. Although Davidson might give them a run for their money.

No. 5 West Virginia vs. No. 12 Murray St.

PRESS VA Huggins has a bad track record in his time at Press VA for teams that bow out early. They'll slow down the Racers though.	PRESS VA After a tough stretch at the beginning of the calendar year, the Mountaineers finished their season on a high note.	PRESS VA West Va. is best Va.	PRESS VA This team is made for postseason basketball.	WEST VIRGINIA The Mountaineers have Jonathan Stark, who has 21.8 PPG.	MURRAY ST. Upset season is upon us, no better place to start than against WVU.

No. 5 Ohio State vs. No. 12 South Dakota St.

OSU It may be close, but the Buckeyes survive.	OHIO STATE They'll fall to Gonzaga in the next round though.	OSU 1-800-GO-BUCS	SOUTH DAKOTA ST. Upset szn.	SOUTH DAKOTA ST. I'm feeling an upset here, since Mike Daum is one of the most underrated players in the country.	OSU I agree with Will, the Buckeyes let it get closer than it should be. But South Dakota St. will put up some big points.

No. 5 Clemson vs. No. 12 New Mexico St.

CLEMSON I expect the Tigers to continue their unexpectedly successful season.	NEW MEXICO ST. Clemson hasn't convinced me. The Aggies are 28–5 and have beaten Illinois, Miami and Davidson this season, demonstrating they can beat "vaunted" Power-5 teams.	CLEMSON I expect these tigers to take out the prey.	CLEMSON But I should add that I hate being on the same staff as Will, because of dumb puns that he makes about tigers and biting.	CLEMSON Auburn needs to watch out. These Tigers may have some bite.	CLEMSON They'll be just fine against these guys.

DMR and Martinez Highlight NCAAs for Track

By JORDAN HOWELL

After extensive training throughout the season, a select group from the men's and women's track teams participated in the NCAA Championships on Friday, March 9, and Saturday, March 10, at the end of last week.

Four Panthers on the women's side took part in the competition. Tasha Greene '21, Meg Wilson '20, Kate McCluskey '18 and Abigail Nadler '19 made up the distance medley relay team. McCluskey also qualified to take part in the 400-meter event.

In the 400 meters on Friday, McCluskey finished ninth, missing the cut for Saturday's national championship heat by one spot, but just narrowly. In fact, that might be an understatement. With a time of 56.30, she was just 0.003 seconds slower than the eighth-place finisher.

The women's distance medley relay team entered the championships after setting the one of the fastest relay times this winter, but placed 12th at NCAAs with a time of 12:16.33.

On the men's side, Jimmy Martinez '19 and the distance medley relay team headlined the event for the Panthers. On the whole, they managed to rack up 11 points as a team, good for a 20th-place finish in a field of 66 teams.

In the 400-meter race, Martinez managed to lock up a spot in the final heat with a seventh-place finish in his preliminary heat. He turned up the heat for the final, though. In the race for all the marbles, Martinez crossed the line in 48.34, good for fourth place and All-American honors.

"Individually, I did everything I said I was going to do," Martinez said, in reference to his performance. "That was to go out strong to the break line, make the final, and run hard in the final."

Martinez also referred to how one of his competitors contributed to his strong performance:

"Hearing A.J. Digby's blades behind me was honestly pretty terrifying," Martinez said of his fellow competitor, a sophomore from Mount Union. Digby finished fourth in the 400-meter at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. "But I was glad to have held on at the finish this year. Unfortunately, having to hold Digby off messed with the pace a little, so the other heat went off slightly faster. But I'm happy with how I attacked both races."

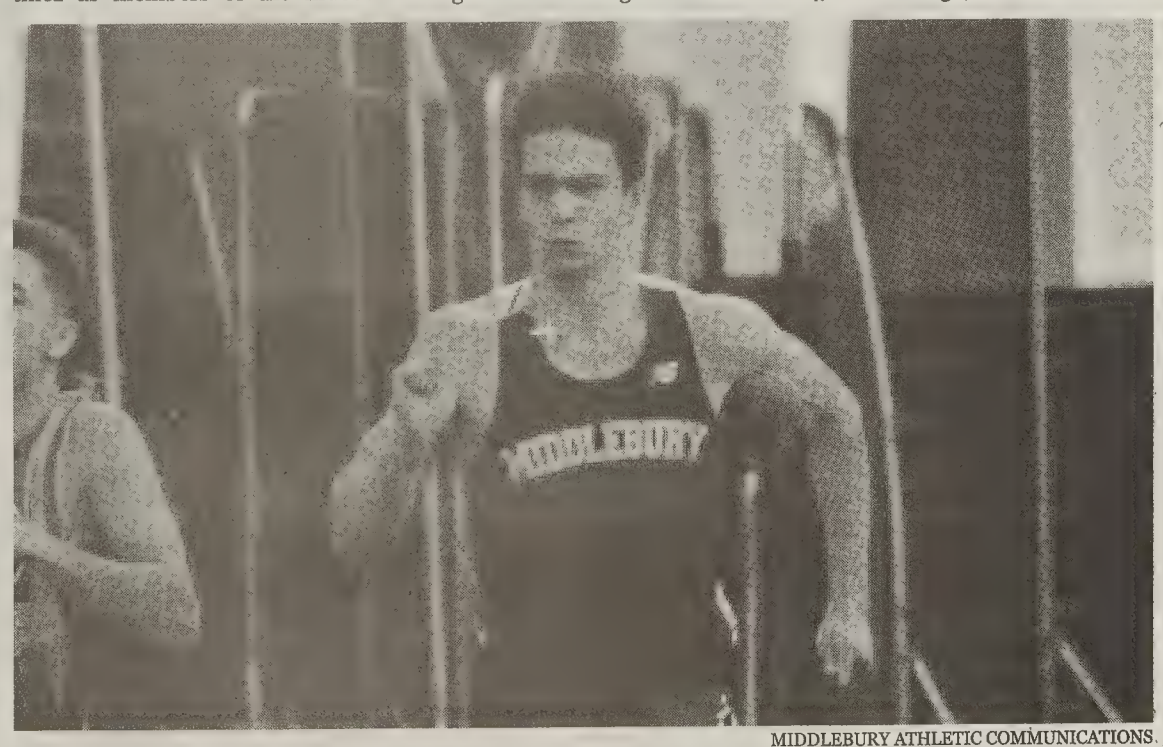
The men's distance medley relay team added the final highlight to what was a very successful weekend for the track program. Nathan Hill '20, Tyler Farrell '18, James Mulliken '18 and Kevin Serrao '18 combined for a time of 9:57.94, which was good for third place.

"I was really proud of the distance medley boys," said Martinez, who watched intently as the race unfolded. "Nathan led off really strong, just like he said he would. And Kevin made some really gutsy moves in the last few laps to pass arguably the best miler in Division III history. Those guys are ballers."

The distance team joined Martinez as members of the indoor All-American team.

After a productive season, the men and women are now looking to continue improving for the outdoor track season. They have a long way to go before outdoor NESCACs, New England Championships and NCAAs arrive, but the thought of succeeding in these races will act as motivation throughout the spring.

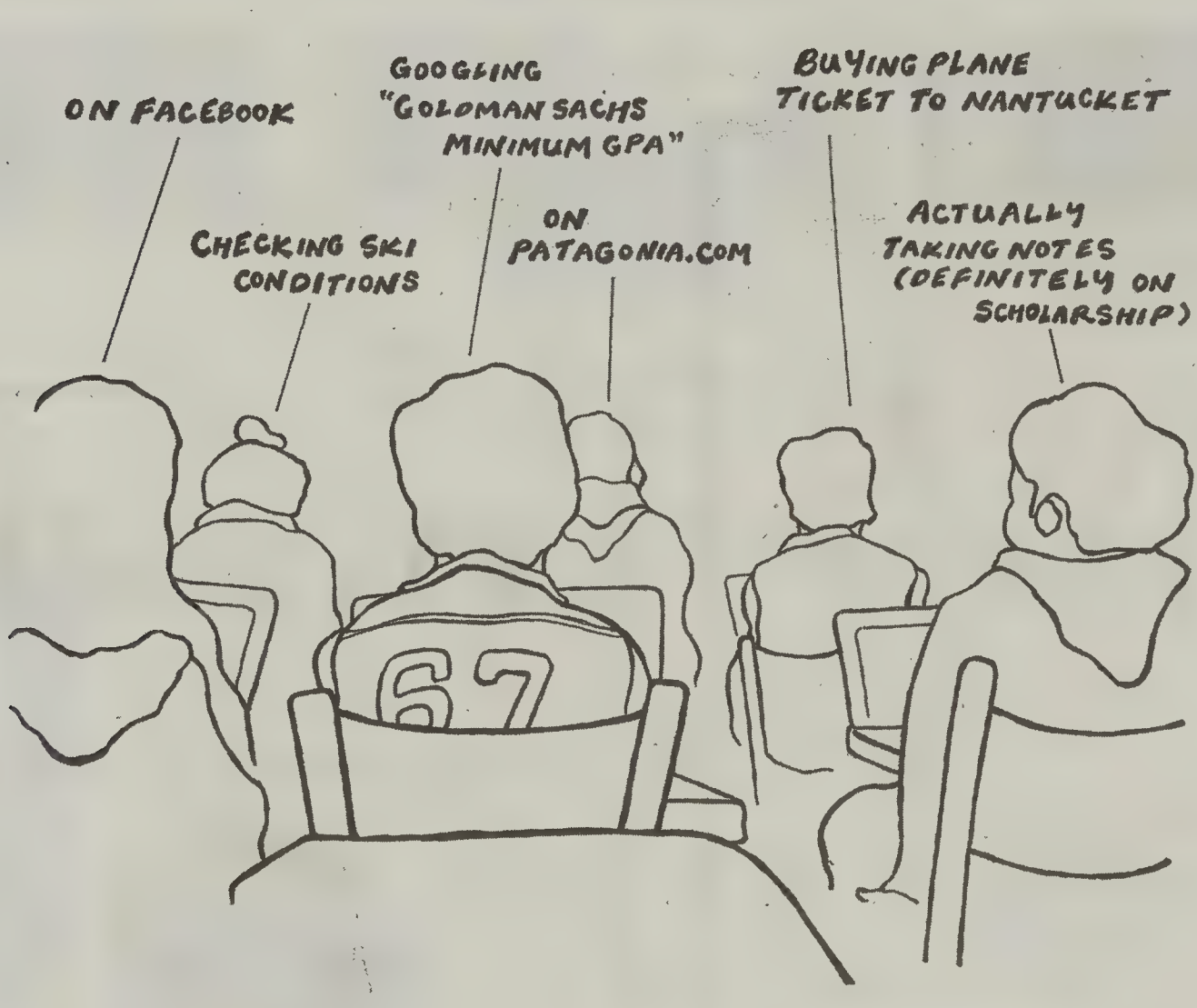
For now, both teams will look to get their legs back underneath them prior to the team's spring break trip. They will both be back in action at the PLNU Collegiate Invitational on Saturday, March 24, in San Diego, California.



MIDDLEBURY ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Jimmy Martinez '19, pictured above, finished fourth in the 400 meters at nationals last weekend, earning him All-American accolades.

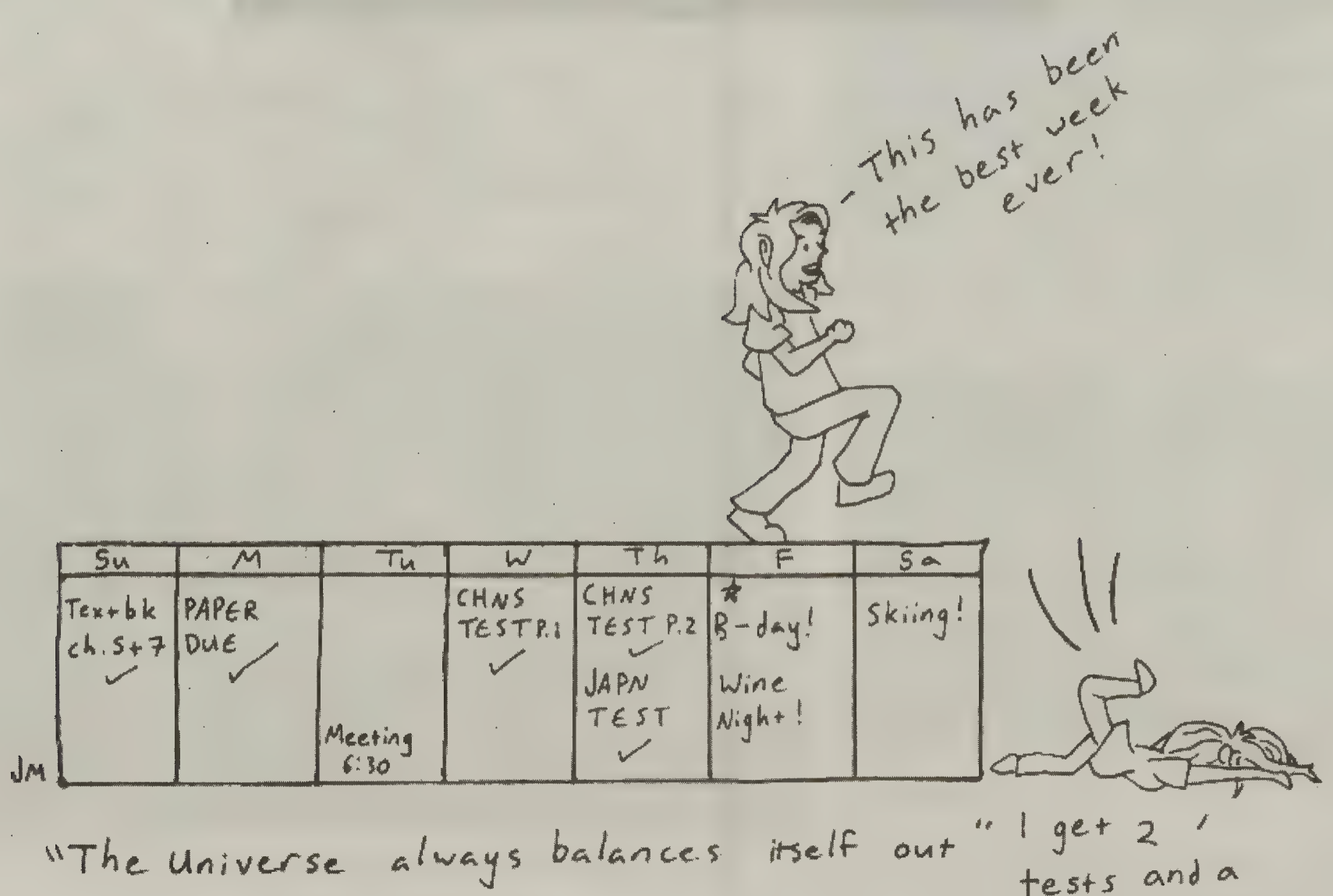
The men's indoor distance medley relay team made up of sophomore Nathan Hill '20, and the senior trio of Tyler Farrell '18, James Mulliken '18 and Kevin Serrao '18 finished in 9:57.94 — a third-place finish that was only approximately 10 seconds off of the team record of 9:46.95 set in 2017. It was only about five seconds off of the time of 9:52.97 that they set just a few weeks ago at the Boston Last Chance Meet.



ELLIE EBERLEE

How to Improve Your Surveys With Paraplvie and Ame
Part 1
hi Paraplvie! what's up?
hi Ame! i'm working on a survey for my class.
actually, can you check it over for me.
Umm Ok
thanks so much!
oh, you should change this question
Gender Identity?
Male
Female
Other
let's see. here you misspelled oubliettes
Tip #1
have someone read through your survey
i know you're trying to be inclusive by adding an "other" box, but you really aren't being that inclusive.
sorry, i guess i wasn't thinking about it.
Tip #2
instead of being an inconsiderate jerk, consider using blank fill-in spaces so that respondents can write whatever they feel, and no one is "other"ed.

VAASU TANEJA



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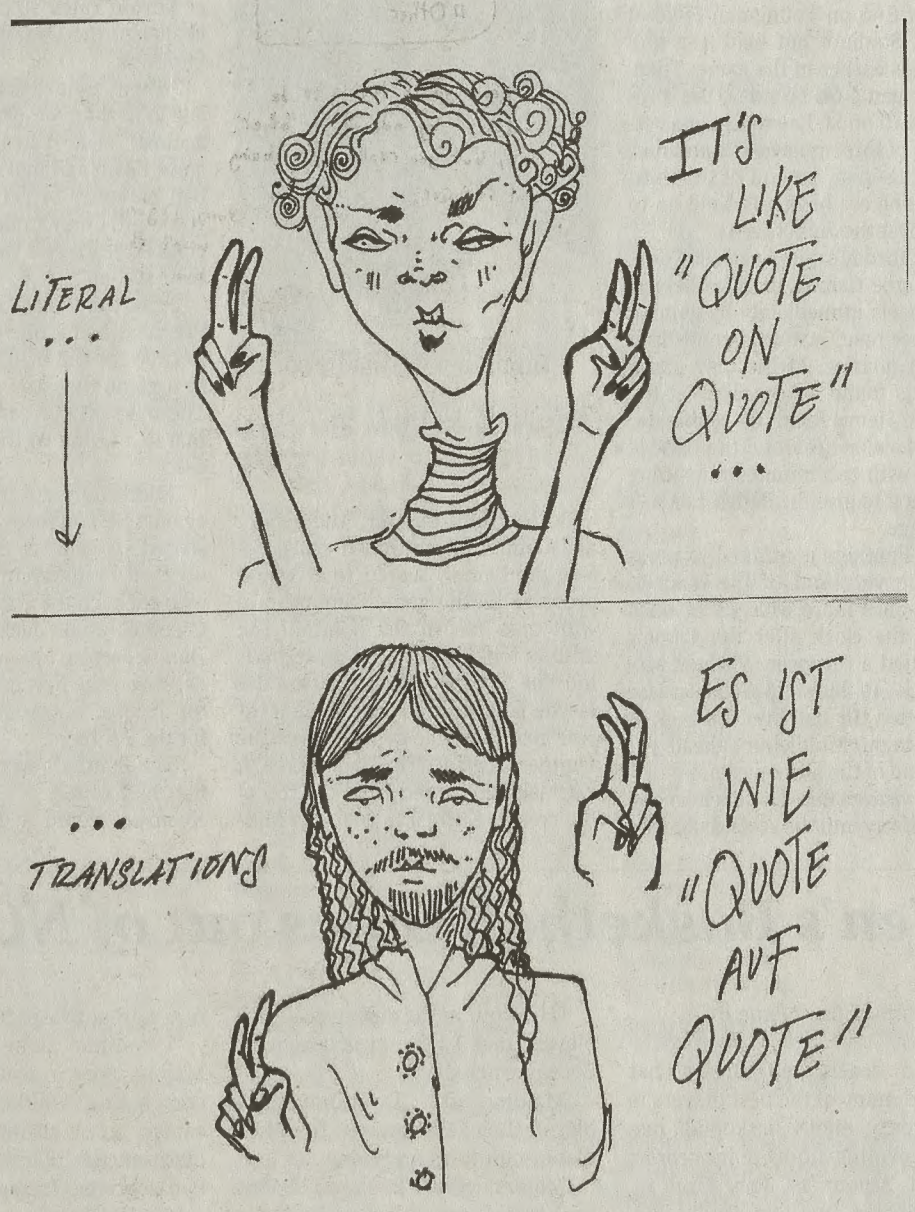
Dancing Deja Vu
Beautiful Soul by Jesse McCartney starts playing
The date was May 22nd, 2009. I was wearing a pink tank top that matched my braces perfectly. Kevin Park was wearing a new pair of sketchers and he looked amazing. He tapped on my shoulder and asked me to dance. I said yes and we danced for a minute until Liana Kratz stormed up to us crying because she had a crush on Kevin, but I didn't know
Kaitlynd Collins

KAITLYND COLLINS



ALEXIS CLAY

BARTLETT AND ARVIDSSON LEAD SKIERS AT NCAAS IN STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

By JAKE TURTEL

Last week, the Middlebury Alpine and Nordic ski teams flew across the country to compete in the NCAA Championships in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Caroline Bartlett '19 and Erik Arvidsson '21 added exclamation points to Middlebury's trip out west, earning All-American honors by placing fourth in the giant slalom and slalom, respectively. The team placed eighth overall in a 23-team field, third among eastern schools.

On day one of the Alpine races the Panther women placed fourth in the giant slalom, led by Bartlett. Her first run time of 53.85 was the fastest of the day among all competitors, while her two-run total of 1:53.37 earned her fourth place, good enough to place her on the All-American First Team. Lexi Calcagni '19 placed 17th out of 34 with a total time of 1:55.23 while teammate Lucia Bailey '21 capped off her rookie year in the top 20 (20th – 1:55.99).

An All-American nod is an achievement for any athlete, and that did not escape Bartlett. "It feels great to be an All-American and accomplish a goal that I set in freshman year," said Bartlett, after returning to campus. "I'm proud of where I am and super grateful for my teammates who keep me smiling through it all!"

The men sent two Alpine competitors to Colorado, Riley Plant '18 and Arvidsson. Plant was 17th after the first run but hit a bump on the course that prevented him, and four other racers, from finishing his second run. Arvidsson, however, completed both legs and placed 11th (1:50.48), making up eight spots after his first run.

The next day the Nordic teams began their racing, starting with the men's 10K and women's 5K Classic races. With the races taking place in Colorado, eastern schools such as Middlebury, Williams, and Bates are at a disadvantage due to the altitude.

"NCAAs were at 6000 feet where there is way less oxygen," said Adam Luban '18. "It's a totally different style of skiing and a big challenge to adjust to it, particularly this late in the season. We went out a week early to acclimatize and get used to the slower style of racing out there."

The women placed all three of their racers in the top 23 (out of 40 racers) with Alexandra Lawson '21 pacing the group with a time of 16:26.5, good for 18th place (fourth among eastern racers). Just behind her was Katie Feldman '18 with a time of 16:27 to finish in 19th. Cate Brams '18 came in 23rd place with a time of 16:34.7.

Sam Wood '19 was the first Panther on the men's side to cross the line during the 10K Classic, placing 16th with a time of 29:05.9. Luban ended in 18th (29.15.1), and Peter Wolter '21 placed 24th (29:37.2). The competition was very stiff, with five of the top-six scoring teams being western schools.

It was in the slalom event on Friday that Arvidsson earned his All-American bid, finding his way to the honor with a time of 1:21.75 and a fourth-place finish. Plant ended his career with a 25th-place finish after a time of 1:26.58. The women did not have as good luck as the first day, as Calcagni was the only racer to complete both runs (25th, 1:25.77).

To cap off their season at nationals, the men's Nordic team competed the 20K Freestyle, where Luban and Wood flip-flopped positions this time. The former completed the course in 55:28.1 (15th), while the latter finished in 55:29.4 (16th) with Wolter coming in 25th (56:47.6). Among eastern skiers, Luban and Wood finished fifth and sixth, respectively.

Head coach of the nordic team, Andrew Johnson, was proud of what his team accomplished this season.

"We achieved many of our goals including qualifying a full nordic team for NCAA's for the first time since 2006," Johnson said. "I couldn't be more proud of the way [the team] worked together and pushed each other throughout the fall and winter. Our captains – among others – did a fabulous job of helping build a very team-centric environment in a sport where that's not always the easiest thing to do."

As Luban's career concludes, he looks back with fond memories. "It's been a hell of a ride I am incredibly proud of the team. I feel like the luckiest guy in the world that I got to ski here for five years."

The women's 15K Freestyle saw a strong performance from Feldman (13th place, 45:58.2), who placed third among eastern racers. Brams and Lawson also placed in the top 30, finishing in 26th and 29th, respectively. The team finished second among eastern schools, behind only Dartmouth.

EMMA STAPLETON

Riley Plant '18 raced for the final time in his Middlebury career at the NCAA championships in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Just like Luban, Brams will miss skiing for Middlebury. "I know this is cliché but this team is my family – they've picked me up at my lowest, and they've pushed me to be better when I've been at my best. I just hope I've been able to give the same to them.

"It's been a wild ride, and as stoked as I am to be graduating, I'll miss the grind with this crew."

With the end of the season comes retirement for not just Plant, Luban, Brams, and Feldman, but also Jacob Volz '18 and Evan Weinman '18 from the Nordic team and Davon Cardamone '18 and Jack Schibli '18 from the Alpine squad. The team will surely miss all eight of its seniors.

Plant will remember nothing but the best from his experience on the Middlebury Ski Team, but not necessarily for time on the mountain.

"Skiing for Middlebury has been everything I wanted from a college ski racing experience. The best memories I will carry from these four years will have little to do with actual ski racing, but more to do with the great personalities I got to spend so much time with in crazy storms, crammed van rides, and the cabin basement."

Men's Lacrosse Showing They Are For Real Upset No. 11 St. Lawrence, Head to No. 9 Wesleyan on Sat.

By IMRAN GANDA

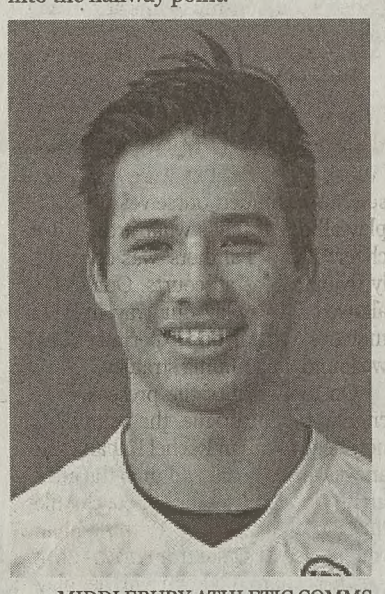
The men's lacrosse team showed that they have depth and are capable of competing with the nation's best last Saturday, March 10, and Monday, March 12. At the same time, there is plenty of room for growth in a season that is still young.

Although they split their two games, they played No. 20 Connecticut College closely last Saturday, ultimately falling to the Camels by a score of 8–6 on Youngman Field at Alumni Stadium but held 4–2 and 6–5 leads earlier in the game. Then, in their game on Monday, the Panthers laid it on St. Lawrence for a better part of three-quarters of an hour, leading 12–3 at the end of the third quarter, before having to hold on to barely beat the Saints 12–11.

In Saturday's game against Conn. College, the Camels put Middlebury on its heels immediately by gaining the upper hand just 48 seconds into the first quarter. At the 9:57 mark, the hosts found an equalizer at the hands of Henry Riehl '18. Midfielder Parker Lawlor '18 found the back of the net with two minutes remaining in the first to give the Panthers a 2–1 advantage.

The Panthers continued to press until the very end of the quarter, scoring once more with 3.7 seconds left on the clock after the Camels committed a turnover. Michael McCormack '19 burst into the crease and slotted the ball into the back of the net to put Middlebury ahead 3–1 at the end of the first quarter.

The visitors cut the deficit to one goal halfway into the second quarter. Then Frank Cosolito '20 assisted a Riehl goal at the top of the crease to restore the two-goal advantage. But over the final four minutes of the first half, the Camels responded with two goals to knot the game at four going into the halfway point.



MIDDLEBURY ATHLETIC COMMS

Alderik van der Heyde '21.

In the third quarter, Middlebury and Conn. College traded goals, before the Camels scored what would prove to be the game-winning goal with 2:20 left in the quarter. The visitors took its first lead 25 seconds into the quarter, but Alderik van der Heyde '21 answered with his first career goal to tie the game at five. The Panthers regained the lead when A.J. Kucinski '20 scored from the top of the crease. Kucinski's goal was Middlebury's last, as the Camels scored the last two goals of the quarter to take a 7–6 lead.

Conn. College scored an insurance goal with 10:34 left in the game. The Panthers had a few chances to score, ripping four shots at the end of regulation but could not find the back of the net. And Nescac foe Conn. College handed Middlebury its first loss of the young season, avenging its 8–6 loss to the Panthers last season.

Conn. College's style and tactics proved a difficult code to crack for the Panthers of play proved. Defender Keaton Yates '18 chimed in on the challenge the Camels posed for the Panthers.

"Their zone defense is a different look than we are used to going against," said Yates. "It slows the game down and makes you move the ball patiently to get the looks that you want. Conn. College a is very disciplined team and works well within their system."

After the tough loss at home, the Panthers had a one day turnaround to prep for the St. Lawrence Saints, in a game that was moved up from Tuesday, March 13, to Monday, March 12, due to the weather forecast.

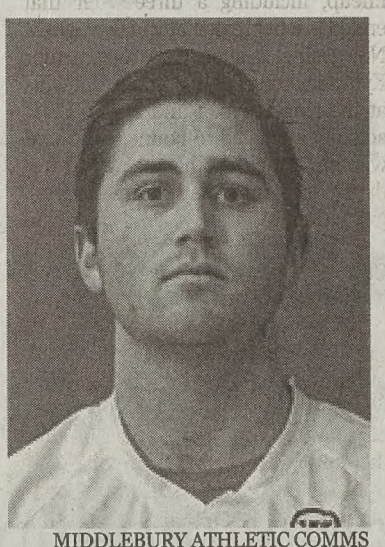
Middlebury got off to a fast start against St. Lawrence — the Panthers scored six goals in the first 12 minutes, all by different players. Those who got in on the action were Lawlor, Cosolito, John Jackson '18, Riehl, Danny Jacobs '20 and van der Heyde. It was the first goal of the season for Jacobs, who scored 19 last year for the Panthers.

The Panthers went on to end the first half with a 7–1 advantage after Kucinski scored a goal assisted by Jacobs.

The fact that the Panthers have spread the goal-scoring around will prove to be a plus for the team going forward.

"On Monday, we had 10 different goal scorers, which is a testament to our depth and ability on the offensive end," said Riehl, who led the team in scoring last season with 53 goals. "Each day in practice, we are becoming more comfortable as a unit and mastering our scheme a little bit better."

A little over two minutes into the third, the Panthers held an eight-point lead following goals from Will Brossman '21 and McCormack. The



MIDDLEBURY ATHLETIC COMMS

Kenan Yates '18.

Saints responded with two rapid goals of their own, to which McCormack decided to score two additional goals to complete a hattrick for the game. Soon after McCormack's double, Laurence Jackson '21 was able to force a turnover and provide a goal for defender Eric Rogers '18 with 4:53 left in the game.

The Saints answered back with a man-up goal and would hold the Panthers goalless in the fourth quarter. They were able to score seven goals in the final quarter but were unable to cap off their almost miraculous comeback.

Lapses on the defensive end and St. Lawrence's sudden revival in the fourth put the Panthers into a corner during the final quarter.

"During that quarter there was a collective lapse in communication and some sloppy play on our defensive end," said Yates. "We started to turn the ball over in the clear and allowed them to convert on possessions they had after those turnovers, which let them gain some momentum."

Fortunately, the Panthers were able to salvage a win and will now prep for their first away game of the season for a Nescac bout against No. 9 Wesleyan.

"Wesleyan is a very good team and a challenging competitor every year," Yates said, "but we are going to prepare for them like we would for any other Nescac game by making sure we are working hard and taking steps forward everyday in practice. It's going to be important that on Saturday we win the ground ball battle and limit the time spent in the penalty box."

The Panthers will head to Middletown, Connecticut, on Saturday, March 17, where the action against the Cardinals is set to start at 2 p.m.

Men's Basketball Bows out of NCAAs One Weekend from Salem

Continued from Page B1

Head coach Jeff Brown has coached many of the best players in Middlebury men's basketball history, including 1,000-point scorers Matt St. Amour '17, Joey Kizel '14, Ryan Sharry '12, Ben Rudin '09, Nolan Thompson '13, Greg Poulos '98, Jake Wolfin '13, and Nate Anderson '04. And now Daly, who Brown considers to be one of the best players he has ever coached an one of the best in program history.

"Jack will go down as one of the best players ever to play at Middlebury," said Brown, citing Daly's senior season as one he will never forget. "He is the only player in the history of NESCAC basketball to accumulate 1000 points, 600 assists and 600 rebounds. He started his senior season with a triple double vs Fitchburg State and had one in our first NCAA game vs Lebanon Valley. He led the country in total assists this season."

Brown knows his point guard's skill on the court propelled him to a tremendous career in the blue and white, and that Daly's drive to win had just as much to do with his individual and their team's success.

"He is one of the most passionate players that I have ever coached," Brown concluded.

Majors and Tarantino also played their last game in the Middlebury uniform on Friday.

Majors' career took off in his sophomore season when he burst into the Panthers' rotation, starting 11 games and averaging 7.2 points per game in 16.1 minutes. He started 19 games his junior year, while averaging a career-best 9.6 points per contest in 23.2 minutes. Majors embraced coming off the bench in his senior season, playing five fewer minutes per game but still averaging 7.6 points per game on 52.4 percent shooting.

Majors was one of Brown's many big men who powered Middlebury to the Sweet Sixteen. Coach Brown recognized how important he was to Middlebury's success this season.

"Adisa made strong contributions the last three seasons," Brown said. "He provided us with inside scoring and made a lot of medium range jump shots. This season his 15-foot jump shot on the baseline against Bowdoin with 5 seconds left was the game winner. He developed into a great passer for us."

Tarantino, along with Daly and Majors, was a team captain this season and Middlebury's starting center. After sitting behind more experienced Panthers his first two seasons, Tarantino started 18 games last season and all 28 games this season. He averaged 6.8 points and six rebounds in his junior year, and career-bests 7.2 points, 6.8 rebounds, and 1.2 blocks this season.

Brown is proud of his Tarantino's, and all of his seniors', selflessness on and off the basketball court.

"Nick started every game for us in his senior season," said Brown. "He provided inside scoring, rebounding and good defense at the rim. He was able to create a spark for us with an exciting dunk or block. He was very active and athletic on the court and very unselfish."

Majors and Tarantino also left their marks on the Middlebury record book, as this year's team set Middlebury's single-season rebounding mark by grabbing 1,329. Tarantino secured 6.8 rebounds per game, while Majors corralled five.

As much as Middlebury will miss its three seniors, they will miss being Panthers just as much. Being a part of coach Brown's team meant much more to Daly than what happened on the court.

"Basketball has been a huge part of my life at Middlebury, and my best friends have all played on the team," said Daly after Friday's loss. "That is the unique part about continuing to play at the college level. It's led me to relationships that I may never have created and has led me to people I may never have met. I am so grateful that I have crossed paths with everyone these last four years, players and coaches."

"I'm sad to say my basketball career is over, but my passion for it will never stop," said Tarantino, echoing his classmate's sentiments. "I've taken away so many life lessons from the sport and have met many close friends through it. I have all the gratitude in the world for my teammates and coaches for making these past years the best four of my life."

Ending their collegiate careers with a loss was certainly difficult for Daly, Majors and Tarantino, but they know their final loss neither represents their careers as a whole nor clouds their memory of their awesome times at Middlebury.

"We've had so much success during my four years, from winning back-to-back Nescac championships, to hosting NCAA tournament games, to making the Elite Eight and the Sweet Sixteen," Daly said. "I can proudly say that I left everything all out on the court and have no regrets, which is why I can keep my head held high because there is nothing more I could have done.

"Obviously it's sad to not have your last game be a win, but life goes on, and you have to be able to reflect on the good times because they clearly outnumbered the bad times we've had on the court."

Once again, Middlebury will be hard-pressed to replace its three outgoing seniors who helped guide the Panthers to consistent success over their four years here. But Daly knows Middlebury will be in the good hands of his teammates and coaches.

"I wish returners nothing but the best of luck, and I know they will continue to keep this program at a high level," Daly concluded. "The future looks extremely bright."

Middlebury Baseball Ready for Redemption

By ALICE HUDSON and JENNY LANGERMAN

Before last season, the baseball team had only qualified for the Nescac playoffs two times in the conference's 16-year playoff history. In that span of time, since 2001, the Panthers only finished over .500 twice. For some perspective, Middlebury went 11–23 two years ago, and they are just three years removed from a dismal 4–24 season.

Last season, Middlebury finished over .500, going 22–16, and advanced to the Nescac championship round, where the Panthers came within one game of capturing their second Nescac championship and an automatic bid into the NCAA tournament. It was a dramatic reversal for the Panthers who were previously, frankly, known as one of the worst varsity teams at Middlebury and the butt of many jokes on campus.

With momentum on their side, the Panthers opened their 2018 season last Saturday, March 10, with a loss to Stevens in Hoboken, New Jersey, where they fell 8–4. The Ducks had an advantage in that it was their seventh game of the spring, whereas it was the Panthers' first chance to get outside.

After their first soiree outside, the Panthers went on to face Bard at Honey Field in Annandale-On-Hudson, New York, for a doubleheader last Sunday, March 11. The Panthers split with Bard, winning the first game 7–0 before falling 9–3 in the second.

Despite the weekend's 1–2 record, the Panthers have lofty goals in mind after one of their best seasons in program history.

"The goal at the front of everybody's mind this season is winning the Nescac championship," said Rob Erickson '18, one of Middlebury's three captains. "Many of us felt like it slipped through our fingers last year, and with the combination of talent and experience we have this time around, we feel like we are in a tremendous position to get the job done."

Head coach Mike Leonard enters his second season at the helm aware of the expectations placed on him and his team after last year's success.

"This year's biggest challenge will be embracing the expectations that come with having success," said Leonard."I think last year we could be an underdog and surprise teams with our ability, but this year we'll have a target on our back. So far this year, I think that the team has really embraced this, and they understand that having high standards can be motivating and doesn't have to be a negative."

After six seasons as head coach of Bates, Leonard took over at Middlebury last season, replacing longtime coach Bob Smith, who was in charge of the program for 32 years.

Leonard is an up-and-coming coach who made the Nescac playoffs twice at Bates and came within a game of winning the conference title in just his first year with Middlebury.

Since last May's defeat in the Nescac championship, the Panthers spent the offseason preparing to reach last season's high points and to surpass them. The taste of victory put fire in their bellies to achieve what they came so close to last season.

"Everyone who was on the team last year has worked very hard, especially in the weight room, and as a result we have a much stronger, faster, and athletic team," said Leonard. He and the Panthers search for ways to get over the hump, something he feels will be a key difference between the success of last year and this year. Among the list of returning contributors to watch this season are shortstop Brooks Carroll '20, second baseman Justin Han '20, infielder Andrew Hennings '20, and outfielders Sam Graf '19 and Alan Guild '20.

A trio of sophomore infielders aim to follow up on their tremendous first season in the blue and white. Carroll played 33 games at shortstop last season. He hit .274 with three home runs in 106 at-bats and showed a patient eye with 15 walks. On top of that, Carroll showed some speed on the basepaths, stealing nine bags in 10 tries. He was also in the middle of 14 double plays.

Han often paired with Carroll in the middle of the infield at second base and blasted a team-high four home runs in his first season. He batted .319, with an on-base percentage of .418 and a slugging percentage of .504. Meanwhile, Hennings led the team with a 1.001 OPS in his 67 at-bats.

Kevin Woodring '20 looks to be the frontrunner to pick up the slack at first base after hitting .281 and hitting two home runs last season to go along with five doubles at first base. He seeks to fill the void left by Jason Locke '17, who graduated after last year's conference championship run. Locke and Ryan Rizzo '18, who hit .301 and stole 20 bases last season at the top of the lineup, are the only major contributors that the team has to replace from last season's squad.

Sam Graf '19 is an immensely important piece in the outfield and in the batting order. Graf hit .323 last season, with three home runs and a team-leading 12 doubles and three triples. He also did not make a single error in the field while racking up 48 putouts and five assists.

Along with producing the fourth-most runs in the conference last season, the Panthers also had the second-best batting average, on-base and slugging percentages in the conference.

On the other hand, Middlebury gave up the most runs in the Nescac last season, with the second-worst ERA and fielding percentage in the conference.

Every pitcher who started a game last season, except for Dylan Takamori '17, returns. Colby Morris '19, another team captain, will head the pitching staff after tossing 68.2 innings last season in 12 starts, going 6–4 with a 4.46 ERA and a conference-high four complete games.

Spencer Shores '20, Colin Waters '19 and Erickson pitched 45, 43.1 and 38.1 innings, respectively. Shores finished with a 4.80 ERA and struck out almost nine batters per nine innings, while Waters recorded a 4.78 ERA. Erickson finished with a 3.99 ERA. Conor Himstead returns after tallying eight saves and a team-best 1.64 ERA last season.

Taking the mound once again will be Erickson; Colby Morris '19, another team captain; Spencer Shores '20; and catcher Gray Goolsby '20, all of whom held key roles and saw significant playing time during the 2017 season.

This year's team is confident it can replace the lost production from six graduated Panthers.

Jake Dianno '21, Henry Strmecki '21, George Goldstein '21, Evan Stewart '21, Ryan Hanrahan '21, Bobby Sullivan '21, Michael Farinelli '21, Will Oppenheim '21 and Jake Miller '21 make up the Panthers' first-year class.

Leonard is excited about what this new group of players will bring to his team.

"The new players always bring great energy and enthusiasm to the team," Leonard said about his first-year class. "I know that the players who are new to the program are eager to contribute, and I believe most of them will in some way."

Faced with the challenge of adapting to college life, the first-years "are willing to absorb the information thrown at them," team captain Sebastian Sanchez '18 believes.

Sanchez also believes the first-years will only add to one of Middlebury's biggest strengths: its depth.

"We have an amazing depth chart, and if any one single person is put into the game, they will perform," Sanchez said. "Additionally, everybody on our team can hit the ball hard and far, from our lead off guy to our nine-spot. We also have depth in the bullpen, and each of our pitchers can come into a situation throwing strikes and getting outs."

Erickson agrees with his fellow senior and captain.

"Everyone on the team, from starters all the way down, knows that he has something to contribute every day," Erickson asserted.

Erickson observed that each season presents new challenges to a team.

"One of our challenges this year will be forming a new team identity behind new leaders," said Erickson. One of the challenges this season will be forging a new identity after playing as underdogs last season.

The team's chemistry both on and off the field is something the Panthers feel will be hugely advantageous this season.

"Our team dynamic embraces not only the players but also the coaching staff," says Sanchez. "We pick each other up when we are down. We love to play loose and energetic. No matter the score, no matter if we are up or down, we are loud and cheering for our teammates."

Erickson agrees. "This is the closest team I've played on in my four years at Middlebury. When I take a step back and look at my teammates, I see a pretty goofy group of guys, so it makes me very proud that such a diverse group of individuals has been able to coalesce into a very tight unit."

This weekend, Saturday, March 17–Sunday, March 18, the Panthers have a unique opportunity, as they will get the chance to travel to Atlanta, Georgia, to play another game against Stevens and then two against Emory.

Leonard, Erickson, Sanchez, Morris and all members of the team are ready to prove last season was not a one-hit wonder. Together, they are ready to elevate the baseball program to another level in their quest for a Nescac championship.

ROAD TRIPIN'

The baseball team will spend most of the next several weeks on the road, starting this weekend with their trip to Atlanta.

Based on our rudimentary calculations done here in the back of the newspaper office where the sports section is stationed, that could mean close to 7,000 round trip miles.

Our unscientific guessing also estimates that his is the furthest the team has travelled over the course of a two-plus-week period in its history.

No. 3 Men's, No. 4 Women's Tennis Teams Start Strong, Sights Firmly Set on National Titles

By JACK KAGAN

Both the men's and women's tennis teams started the spring season on a high note last weekend, Saturday, March 10, and Sunday, March 11. And both teams have a lot to be excited about in 2018.

The ITA Division III men's national team rankings have the Middlebury men at No. 3, as per the Thursday, March 1, release. The ITA's latest women's rankings, from Thursday, March 8, placed the Middlebury women at No. 4. It's no wonder the programs are ranked so high to begin the year; last season saw both teams lose in tight Nescac championship matches, which they followed with deep NCAA tournament runs. The men's side made it all the way to the semifinal before losing a heartbreaker to Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, and the women lost an equally tight 5–4 contest to Nescac foe Williams in the same round.

Both teams were then well represented at the NCAA singles and doubles championships in Chattanooga, Tennessee, which was highlighted by the performances of Lubo Cuba '19 and Will de Quant '18. Cuba became the first Panther in the history of the tennis program to win the NCAA singles national title. He then teamed up with de Quant to earn the first NCAA doubles national title in the tennis program's history. Add to that a handful of talented first-year additions for the men, some of whom are already seeing important match time, and a large sophomore contingent with a year of experience under their belts for the women. 2015 USTA/ITA DIII national champion Noah Farrell '18 also returns to boost the men's team lineup.

The track record and the strides the teams have made in preparation for the season has things looking up for the Middlebury tennis program. Both teams look once again poised to make deep runs and seek revenge this spring.

Men's team captain Timo van der Geest '18 said the offseason was good in that it got the team, and the upperclassman leadership, to step up and commit to improving their games.

"The offseason was a time where there is a bit of a greater emphasis on upperclassman leadership," said van der Geest, one the men's team's three senior captains. "Without having the coaches around, it was a good opportunity for us again to prove how committed we are and [to show] what we want this tennis program to be about."

The men's team started off Sunday with a 7–2 triumph over 19th-ranked Bates. Middlebury lost two tight matches in the middle of the singles lineup, including a three-setter that ended in a tiebreaker at van der Geest's No. 3 singles spot. Cuba and senior Kyle Schlanger '18 had important wins at the singles No. 1 and No. 2. Cuba actually managed to bounce back and win his match in the third set after dropping the middle set 6–0 to Bates' No. 1, Ben Rosen.

"My second set was tough," said Cuba. "My opponent played well, and I was struggling to find my game."

What changed in the third set was Cuba's approach against Rosen: "The only thing I changed in the third set was my energy. I stuck with my original game plan of moving him around the court and staying aggressive and tracking well while showing some more positive emotion. I think this made a big difference."

To go along with their solid performance in the singles competition, the Panthers dominated in doubles, where they swept Bates convincingly.

Also impressive was the performance of the men's first-years on Sunday. Andre Xiao '21 and Nate Eazor '21 both notched their first wins of the spring and their first team match win as Panthers. This marks the second year in a row the men have dominated Bates in such fashion, after an 8–1 win last year.

"The first match is definitely a bit of a different one," said van der Geest, "as we haven't played against other teams in a very long time. It was awesome opening the season at home again, like we do every year. Our indoor courts give us an extra bit of confidence going into our first game, since we have spent a fair amount of time there practicing."

Cuba, the individual national champion, said that the captain was right in saying the first match is different, but he added that nerves certainly played into it.

"There were definitely some nerves associated with the match," Cuba said. "However, we've been training hard all offseason, and we recognize the work we put in, so I don't think nerves necessarily affected our playing. I think we were more excited than anything to finally be competing and getting a win under our belt."

The men followed this performance up with a convincing 9–0 victory over unranked Babson. Middlebury didn't drop a set in the entire match against the Beavers, which featured seven 6–0 or 8–0 sets by six different players.

With their opening-weekend performance, the Panthers certainly look like a group that teams will have to go through if they want a shot at the national title come May. Middlebury certainly legitimized their preseason No. 3 national ranking and No. 1 regional ranking and will be the team to beat in the Nescac.

"I don't think our high national ranking from last year makes a difference in terms of how we approach our games," van der Geest asserted. "At the most, it will give us extra confidence going into matches, but at the time of playing, every game we'll play this spring will just be another individual game during which rankings don't matter."

It was trial by fire to start the season for the women's team, as the Panthers headed to Medford, Massachusetts, to take on a fierce opponent in No. 7 Tufts last Saturday, March 10. Nonetheless, the Panthers persevered and left Medford with a 6–3 victory.

"It feels great to kick start the season with a big win," said Catherine Blayze '20. "Tufts is a great team and came out very strong from the moment we stepped on the court. Of course we all were a little nervous, as it was our first match of the season, but we carried ourselves well."

The Panthers have a bright future ahead of them — without any seniors, five sophomores and just one junior played last Saturday. Nevertheless, the team is focused on the here and now, and for good reason. Despite their relative youth, they enter the year with a No. 4 national ranking, which bodes well for a strong season. However, a strong Williams team that beat them last year in the Nescac tournament final and then went on to win the national championship looms at No. 2 in the nation.

"After winter break, we knew we had a little more than a month to make huge pushes in terms of fitness. This showed up this weekend," Stowe said. "When a couple of us were down first sets we reminded ourselves we could play all day if that's what it took. The cheer 'all day Panthers' was constantly flying across all courts. Our fitness allowed us to play our way into the matches, settle in and experiment until we found our winning strategy."

On top of all of the preseason excitement and intrigue, the team has a new head coach in Rachel Kahan. Kahan was an assistant and then the interim head coach after former coach Mike Morgan left for Pomona-Pitzer. Kahan, who played at Duke from 2010–2015, has more than caught on with her players.

"Rachel [Kahan] has been a great addition to the program as an assistant and now the head coach," said Stowe. "Her being named the interim head coach was the only thing that kept us calm with the sudden departure of Coach Morgan.

"She [Kahan] is extremely competitive and encourages us to go into dual matches looking for wins anywhere we can get them, whether just a mere extra game or an exhibition set. It's a great feeling having a coach who wants to win just as badly as we do."

Blayze spoke volumes about Kahan's positive impact as well.

"We are all extremely happy to see Rachel as our official head coach," Blayze said, adding that Kahan "brings such amazing insight from her days playing for Duke. She really cares about each individual player and believes in all of us to try our best and work our hardest for the team."

The Panthers certainly had their focus on the Tufts match, as they won two of the three doubles matches, and proved too strong for the Jumbos down the stretch in the singles competition. Almost all the matches were hotly contested, and Katy Hughes '20 gave Tufts' Patricia Obeid a scare at the No. 1 spot, narrowly losing 6–4 in the decisive second set after a tiebreaker in the first set. Christina Puccinelli '19 had a marathon three-setter with Tufts' Lauren Louks at the No. 2 spot

Plattsburgh Sneaks Past Women's Hockey

Continued from Page B1

"Playing in my last collegiate hockey game was very weird," Wulf said. "It was in the back of my mind that it could be our last one, but I think we believed so much that we could win the game and beat Plattsburgh that when they scored the empty net goal to go up by two with 12 seconds left and then final buzzer sounded, I was in shock. It honestly felt surreal.

"Obviously a lot of emotions were running through my body throughout the game, mostly adrenaline," Wulf continued. "When the game ended, there were a lot of tears and disappointment. I honestly still can't believe it's over."

Regardless of the way things turned out on Saturday, Wulf, her teammates, and especially her fellow seniors had to acknowledge and appreciate their accomplishments.

"While we were definitely all upset at the time," said Wulf, "taking a step back, I am so proud of what our team accomplished this year and how much better we got throughout the season. It's crazy that our hockey careers are over, but I would not have wanted to play with anyone else besides our senior class these past four years, and I would not have wanted to end my career with any other team than this one.

"Although we did not achieve our goal of winning a national championship, to make history and win three-straight Nescac Championships and also make NCAAs all four years is something to be extreme proud of."

Wulf also spoke to how much optimism the program has to have looking forward.

"I am confident that the returners and newcomers will be able to continue the program's success," said Wulf. "We were a young team this year, so they will only get better with more experience. It's weird to think we won't be playing with them next year, but I can't wait to follow and watch the team next year! It's been an honor and privilege to play for this program, and I couldn't have asked for a better last four years of my hockey career."

The team will miss the class of 2018, but with head coach Bill Mandingo at the helm, the possibilities are endless for this young talented team and it is not crazy to think that the Middlebury Panthers might win the Nescac championship four years in a row.

SCOREBOARD
SPRING SPORTS

MEN'S LACROSSE

SATURDAY
Middlebury at Wesleyan, 1 p.m.
TUESDAY
Plattsburgh vs. Middlebury, 4 p.m.

NESCAC

School	Record Conf.	Overall
AMHERST	2-0	3-0
CONN. COLLEGE	2-0	3-0
TUFTS	1-0	3-0
WESLEYAN	2-0	2-0
COLBY	1-1	1-0
MIDDLEBURY	1-1	2-1
WILLIAMS	1-1	1-2
BATES	0-2	0-3
BOWDOIN	0-2	0-2
HAMILTON	0-2	1-2
TRINITY	0-1	1-2

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

SATURDAY
Wesleyan at Middlebury, 12 p.m.

School	Record Conf.	Overall
AMHERST	2-0	3-0
MIDDLEBURY	2-0	4-0
TRINITY	1-0	2-0
TUFTS	1-0	2-0
WESLEYAN	2-0	3-0
BOWDOIN	1-1	2-1
HAMILTON	1-1	1-2
BATES	0-2	3-2
COLBY	0-2	1-2
CONN. COLLEGE	0-2	1-2
WILLIAMS	0-2	0-3

MEN'S TENNIS

FRIDAY
Middlebury vs. Colby, at Dartmouth 5 p.m.
Middlebury at M.I.T 10 a.m.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

SATURDAY
Colby vs. Middlebury, 1 p.m.
St. Lawrence vs. Middlebury, 5 p.m.

BASEBALL

SATURDAY
Middlebury vs. Stevens Institute at Emory, 10:00 a.m

Middlebury vs. TBD at Emory, 1:00 pm.

SUNDAY
Middlebury vs. TBD at Emory, 12:00 p.m.

QUICK NOTES FROM AROUND THE NESCAC

In men's lacrosse, top seated Amherst (2-0) defeated Bowdoin (1-1) in Brunswick, 16-15. The Mammoths' offense excelled under pressure, scoring 2 goals with 1:40 remaining in regulation, and were led by Sophomore attackman Colin Miniscus, who contributed six for the entire game.

In women's lacrosse, Amherst College (3-0), also top seeded, downed Bowdoin (2-1) at home, handing the Polar Bears their first loss of the season.

SPRING SPORTS
Previews

SOFTBALL

THURSDAY, MARCH 22 ISSUE

Farid Noori '18 Looks to Blaze a Trail with Mountain Biking

By ROB ERICKSON

Ordinarily, mountain bikers spend most of their time flying down trails that have already been blazed, not carving the paths themselves. But the relationship that native Afghan Farid Noori '18 has with the sport has hardly been an ordinary one. The founder of Mountain Bike Afghanistan — a non-profit whose stated goal "is to empower Afghan youth with the joy of riding and competing on mountain bikes, as well as to connect people across borders and cultures through their shared love of the outdoors and the sport of biking" — only came to the U.S. to study at age 16, a fact surprising to many given the unmistakable feeling of comfort and ease that he projects. He hardly even knew what a mountain bike was until the summer before he began at Middlebury, when he happened to attend a race with his host family in New Mexico.

According to Noori, the connection was immediate. Without hesitation, he asked one of the riders if he could take his bike for a spin — nothing challenging, just a quick trip up and down the mountain (spend some time with Noori, and you'll realize that he construes the word "challenge" differently than most). "That day, I realized two things," he later said: "that [mountain biking] is something that I wanted to do; but also, something about that word, mountain biking. We were in the U.S., but all the crazy mountains are back home. Why is there such a thing called 'mountain biking' here, and not at home?"

So here he stands now, almost four years removed from that seminal moment and staring down the end of his career as a Middlebury student. It would be hard to envision someone taking a more comprehensive approach to the mountain biking lifestyle: in addition to his short and long-term plans for his non-profit, Noori is also pursuing a professional mountain biking career of his own in the US. Last fall, he "sort of" (his words — a typical understatement) became the first Afghan to race in the USA Cycling Collegiate Mountain Biking National Championship in Missoula, Montana. He has performed well enough to earn a Category–1 certification, qualifying him to race as a semi-pro, and will spend the rest of this year trying to accumulate enough points at races to garner a professional certification.

But for Noori, mountain biking has never come easily. Or rather, one should say that the mountain bikes themselves have never come easily. "Mountain bikes are very expensive," he explains. "It's not only an obstacle to entry in Afghanistan, which is a poorer country, but in the US as well, it's an obstacle. The cost is a huge barrier." When he first arrived at Middlebury, he knew he wanted to pursue mountain biking, so he immediately got involved with the cycling club and started signing up for races, even before he had wheels of his own.

Noori had to settle for road biking over mountain biking for his first foray into competitive racing. He remembers his first taste fondly. "I invested in a $265 cheap road bike that I found on Google," he remembers. "And when the bike came in, it actually wasn't the correct size. So I went to my first race — I hadn't ridden more than ten miles at a time, and this was a twenty-mile race. It was a s***show. It was crazy. But I had a fun time. My goal was not to come in last, and I achieved that — well, my first goal was to finish this race, to accomplish it."

He hasn't looked back since. That fall, he came into the mountain bike season with even more excitement; Kai Wiggins '16.5, a fellow member of the cycling club who raced professionally, had a spare mountain bike that a sponsor had given him for cross-training. He told Noori to meet him in a parking lot one day and gave him the bike to use as his own. The rest is history. Noori recalls taking advantage of the mild winter in Vermont that year. "It was warm," he said. "There wasn't any snow at all. I would ride all winter long, I would do it every day. I was kind of like a dog on a bone, just doing it every day." But all the while, the thought lingered in the back of his mind: "Okay, I love doing this — but I want to take this home."

That summer, Noori managed to secure CCI funding to travel to Colorado and work on an entrepreneurship incubator he had started the year before in Afghanistan, continuing his mountain bike training on the side. Of course, he soon realized where his priorities lay. To make his decision easier, the 2016 Summer Olympics were taking place around the same time in Brazil. Just like that, the entrepreneurship incubator fell by the wayside. Noori had become focused on bringing something else to Afghanistan: "We need to be in the Olympics," he repeated to himself. "Afghanistan needs to be in the Olympics." His pride in his home country, his own mountain biking career, his desire to spark real social change — everything was coming together, all under the umbrella of what would become Mountain Bike Afghanistan.

"My main attraction was this," Noori went on to explain: "there's this beautiful country, with some of the most spectacular mountains in the world — and all people know it for is war. How can we change that narrative? It's not just a story of, 'Hey, we're bringing mountain bikes to Afghanistan.' It's about changing narratives: by building trails, by building infrastructure, by growing the sport, all of the sudden you create a projection of the country that people haven't seen."

And being the first Afghan mountain biker to represent his country at the Olympics — a personal goal of Noori's — wouldn't hurt, either. "That also contributes to the changing narrative, having the Afghan people at the forefront. So that motivates me to race, myself."

Nor is Noori forcing a match between the sport he fell in love with and the country of Afghanistan. Listen to him talk, and you'll start to find it a little absurd that nobody else has had this idea. "So in Afghanistan," he says, "up until recently it was very rural: 80% of Afghans were farmers. It's a very mountainous country. So they lived in these very isolated villages. I was born in one of them — where I was born, there are only two other houses, for as long as you can see. So how do we get places? My dad walked to school every day, for an hour and a half one way, and another hour and a half on the way back... And even in Kabul, where I live, on the weekends my dad and I go hiking in the mountains, and there's so many people — women, young people, people who come to run on the mountain, you see people everywhere. So it's a very active people — everybody is very healthy, they're outside all the time."

So Noori has the breathtaking landscape of Afghanistan and a naturally active, engaged people to work with. What will be necessary, as he explains, is simply to put a framework in place. "The thing that's unique about Afghanistan is that 70% percent of the population is under 25 years old," Noori says. "It's a very young population. But in a given young Afghan's life, based on personal experience, you go to school for three hours a day, and you do homework maybe one hour a day. All of the sudden, you have so much free time — how do you fill it up? What do you fill it up with? There's so much energy; young people have so much energy.

SAJJAD HUSAINI

The Mountain Bike Afghanistan (MTBA) team that Farid is getting off the ground in Bamiyan, Afghanistan

"And in the US, there are so many opportunities and resources for young people. I joke with my friends that Middlebury has more sports infrastructure than the whole country of Afghanistan. So now let's take that back to Afghanistan, a country with a young population who have also been deprived of these opportunities for the past four decades. And they're aware of the fact that they've been deprived of these. They can see mountain biking videos on their iPhones and they're like, 'We want this... I want to be out there. I'm a young Afghan. I'm strong.' It's a very resilient culture, the war has been going on, and people still go about their lives every day, they're trying to change the narrative, change their lives, and basically champion against the adversities of life in Afghanistan."

Noori tells a story about a friend to really drive his point home. "I have a friend in Kabul — and she loves running, and she uses the same running app that I use, Strava. But because she's female and the culture is not very recipient of people running and riding outside, I can see that her runs in Afghanistan are more or less inside a closed building — she does like five miles, but repetitively in a loop, because she's safe there.

"And it kind of breaks my heart, but it also speaks to that sort of interest [in outdoor activities]. People want to do these things. We've just got to open it up. So as far as the interest goes, I feel like we're not keeping up with it — like, this project needs to be there now."

So it's understandable that Noori might have a difficult time limiting the size of his project at first. But despite the size of his ambitions for Mountain Bike Afghanistan (MTBA for short), he realized that if the project was ever going to get off the ground, he had to start small and gradually expand in scope. With on-the-ground help from Sajjad Husaini, a competitive Afghan skier with some mountain biking experience (for cross-training), Noori has put together a team of 10 Afghans — ranging from teens to late twenties — who are ready to commit to serious training in the sport. He has been able to secure a partnership with a third-party organization with 501c status so that MTBA can accept donations as a non-profit. They've already received a number of helmets donated by Outdoor Gear Exchange, but Noori and his team still have quite a ways to go before they can even consider serious competition.

"Right now," Noori says, "we're raising the funds for a dozen mountain bikes of decent quality, other bike equipment like jerseys, helmets and stuff, and a bike shop/workshop for people to be able to repair their bikes. Once we have that up and going, our plan is to start building trails in this place that these guys are from, which is Bamyan in Afghanistan. It's in central Afghanistan, up in the mountains, 10,000 feet. They have access to beautiful lakes — it's the site of Afghanistan's first national park and national reserve area — so we'd have permission to build trails there."

Fortunately, the Noori who once had grand plans for an entrepreneurship incubator is hardly absent from MTBA, either. His hands are all over the non-profit's "dollar-to-trail" concept, designed to attract the attention from major biking companies, in which donations equaling a certain dollar amount are met with a pledge to construct a certain length of mountain bike trail. "We'll have to do the math of how much money and labor a mile of trail takes," he says, "but this is a value that a lot of companies want to see. They don't just want to give away bikes; they want to see some value created, which will contribute to the growth of the industry overall. So all of the sudden you have this new frontier in the world where people can go and bike, and it looks good for [the companies] — they can use it as a marketing tool. If Cannondale can do that and differentiate itself from Giant, then it's a win for Cannondale. So it's a good marketing tool for them."

But Noori has hopes of raising a good portion of his funds from individual donors as well. With a grin, he warns that Middlebury students should stay on the lookout for Mountain Bike Afghanistan t-shirts on campus in the near future. But those eager to make a more immediate impact and support Noori's tremendous undertaking can learn about MTBA, as well as how to donate, online at www.mtbafghanistan.com.

Or, for those who might find themselves more interested in Noori's personal story as an athlete, he is currently facing a critical point in his racing career. "It has been a very tough journey," he explains. "I'm still on those borrowed bikes, from Kai [Wiggins]— a road bike and a mountain bike. And they're getting old: normally, in the racing world you upgrade your bike every year because of wear and tear. I've been riding the same bike for three years, and I'm going into my most important season this year, accumulating points toward getting my pro license. So having the right equipment is super important on this journey. And now I'm faced with the same problem again." Moreover, after he gets his professional license, Noori has designs to participate in the 2020 Summer Olympics in Japan — no small undertaking. So to help him reach his goal, Noori has set up a MiddStart page (equivalent to GoFundMe for the Middlebury network), which can be found here: http://middstart.middlebury.edu/mountain-bike-afghanistan-an-olympic-dream/.

Try, if you will, to isolate Noori's personal dream from his dreams for the country of Afghanistan, or vice-versa. They comprise two narratives — the story of a nation, and the story of a boy from that nation — that have converged at a single, astounding, inevitable point. From where we stand, it would almost be foolish to imagine one without the other.

"The biggest thing about mountain biking for me," Noori says, "is the idea of getting outside. Forgetting your everyday stress, getting out on the trails, this act of cycling, pedaling out in the woods all by yourself or with your friends... and then after a while, through the very act of mountain biking — it's challenging, you're climbing all the time — you get to a point where you're on top of the mountain, and you have this beautiful view and vista. Regardless of who you are in the world, that's what it does to you. It's a very peaceful process.

"And to Afghanistan, that's so important. There's an active conflict going on, people are fleeing the country to Europe. How do you instill in Afghans a sense of purpose and love for the place that they're from? Without their having that perspective to look at their surroundings with an appreciative eye? It's not hard to see a place that has been affected by conflict for more than 4 decades, where people are losing sight of hope, where there's a corrupt government, the economy is very bad, there are explosions all around the country, there's a war going on. How do you take a break from that?

"So my goal with the project is to give people an opportunity. The very act of building trails, and drawing and dragging people away from their troubled neighborhoods, their troubled villages, to a point where you can just relax, and take a moment to not thing about that, is super powerful, super empowering. Because if you always think about the conflict, it's always going to be in your head. You need a break from it in order to face your challenges, in order for you to have a clear mind — and especially for the young people, it's super important to have that. So that's what the project can also provide. And that's mainly one of the reasons I'm doing it."

We might say that Noori is living his life in the hope that the Afghan people might find a new way to ride; more than that, he rides in the hope that his people might find a new way to live.

MICHAEL FOLEY / FLICKR

A picture of Afghanistan's spectacular and towering mountains where Farid hopes to build bike trails.